

صحة من الامم

Friday April 12 1996

Algeria D 2.50	France FR 1.00	Germany GR 1.00
Andorra P 200	Germany GR 1.00	Germany GR 1.00
Argentina AR 28	Italy IT 1.00	Italy IT 1.00
Australia AU 28	Japan JP 1.00	Japan JP 1.00
Austria AT 28	South Korea KR 1.00	South Korea KR 1.00
Belgium BF 28	Spain ES 1.00	Spain ES 1.00
Canada CA 12.00	Sweden SE 1.00	Sweden SE 1.00
Denmark DK 1.00	Switzerland CH 1.00	Switzerland CH 1.00
Finland FI 1.00	United Kingdom GB 1.00	United Kingdom GB 1.00
France FR 1.00	USA US 1.00	USA US 1.00
Germany GR 1.00	Yemen YE 1.00	Yemen YE 1.00
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United Kingdom GB 1.00		
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Yemen YE 1.00		

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

The latest music and books



The debate feminists ignore

What are fathers for?

Edward Thorp

Blair's pitch for power

Labour leader stakes claim for centre ground

Patrick Wintour in New York and Rebecca Smithers

TONY BLAIR audaciously re-positioned his party on the middle ground of British politics yesterday when he defined Labour as the party of the centre, committed to low tax, entrepreneurship and equity.

In a move designed to push John Major to the right of British politics and to enrage his own far left, Mr Blair deployed a set-piece speech to 600 businessmen in New York to assert that the centre was now the fertile ground for political ideas.



Speaking as Labour was heading for a resounding victory in the Staffordshire South-East by-election, he said: "New Labour will be a government of the radical centre offering a real and dynamic change but doing it from an explicitly centre-ground position, taking people with us and recognising that unless we combine change with equity, change will not come."

Labour's win last night will slash John Major's majority to a humiliating one. The by-election, in a traditionally Conservative Middle England constituency, was the first serious test faced by the Government since the dust settled on the Tory leadership contest last summer.

In his speech, Mr Blair denounced his critics as fatuous and absurd, telling his business audience that the party's changes were real and permanent. He asserted that many of the old distinctions between left and right were now redundant.

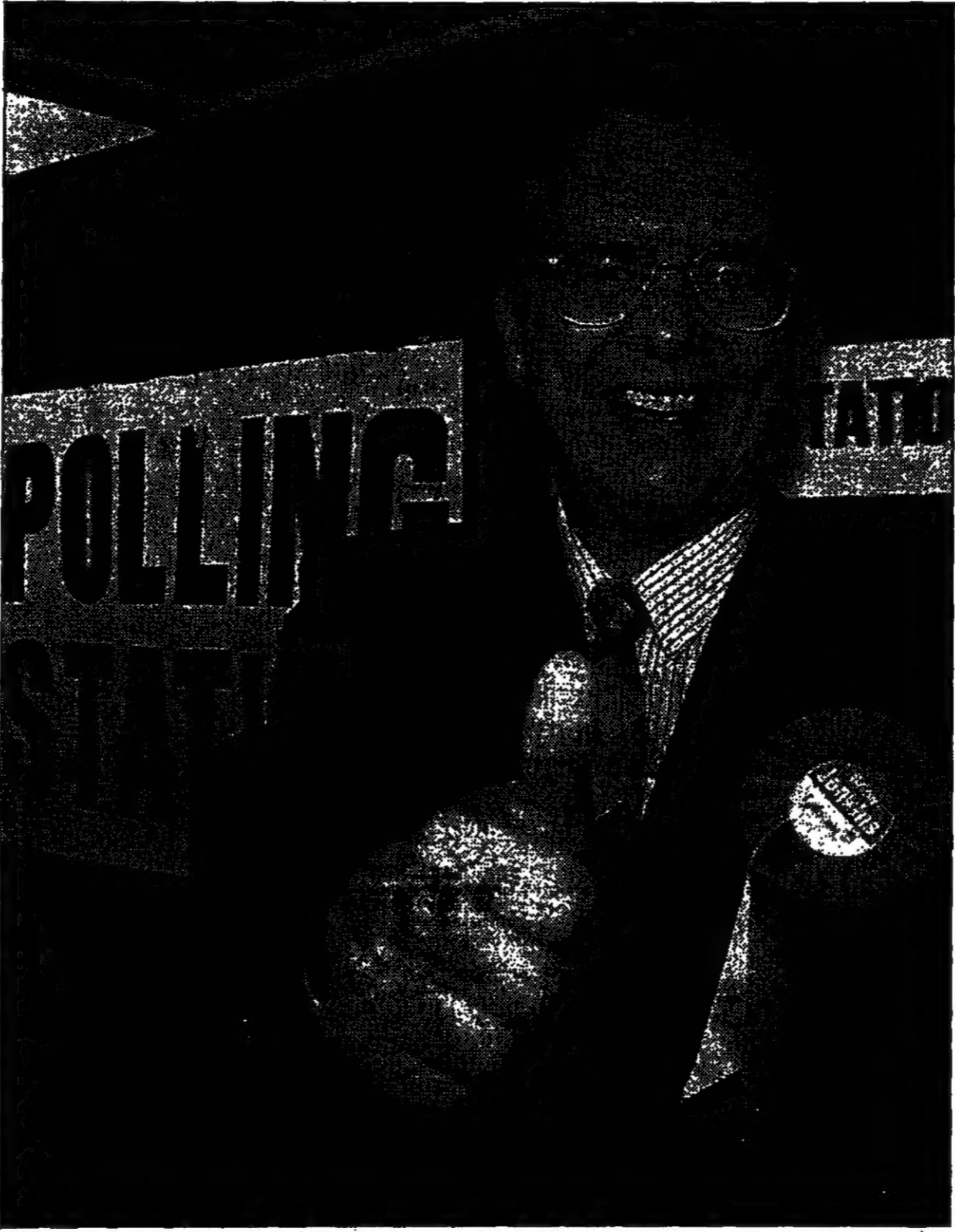
"I believe the centre can be a fertile ground for radical politics," he said. "The extremes of left and right simply will not meet the real challenges. A modern party, to be successful in the modern world, must be in the centre speaking for the mainstream majority."

He rejected those on the left who had seen high tax as a virility symbol. Despite suggestions that he will make tax cuts for the middle class his first concern, he said his priority should be to lower taxes at the bottom end and reduce the appallingly high marginal rates of tax paid by millions.

But he also promised he would not punish those on modest incomes paying the top income tax rate, like schoolteachers, middle managers and police officers.

Overall, his aim was to lift burdens on business, especially small business. New Labour needed no persuasion of the need to encourage entrepreneurs, innovators and wealth creators. Offering a meritocracy rather than egalitarianism, he said: "I want a system where people can become wealthy through hard work and merit, not rely on inheritance or a better class of accountants."

In the strongest underlying theme of his three-day visit, he argued that new global



Labour candidate Brian Jenkins displaying a winner's confidence in Tamworth yesterday

markets and the intensification of competition made it of paramount importance to equip and educate the nation's labour force, so making them flexible enough to respond to the market.

Mr Blair's aides described the attempt by John Major to attack Mr Blair's visit as a huge error which only drew attention to the way in which the Government had descended into opposition.

In London, Mr Major had told the BBC that Mr Blair was not stealing his thunder

and asserted: "Labour and higher taxes go together like strawberries and cream." Mr Blair described Mr Major's remarks as sad, adding that the British were fed up with the Conservatives' own diet of higher taxes.

Mr Blair meets President Clinton today in what his aides regard as so far a highly successful visit.

Labour needed a 6.3 per cent swing in yesterday's by-election to overturn the Conservatives' majority of 7,192. The contest, which was

triggered by the death last December of the Conservative whip, Sir David Lighthow, had been described as the most important of this Parliament.

From the start, it was a two-horse race between the Labour candidate, Brian Jenkins, and the Conservative candidate, Jimmy James.

Labour fought its campaign largely on family finances and the 22 new Tory taxes that have been introduced since the 1992 general election.

The Conservatives were initially confident that its supporters would vote on the strength of the Government's track record. But they feared that a visit by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, to Tamworth last week may have fuelled false expectations of a victory, and have since been privately bracing themselves for defeat, even claiming that a 5,000 Labour majority would be tolerable.

Live animal export rules 'ignored by ministry'

Paul Brown and Richard Norton-Taylor

RULES imposed by the European Union to prevent the spread of BSE and other animal diseases to the continent have been routinely ignored by exporters with the knowledge of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Thousands of live calves and millions of sheep have been exported illegally every year without the necessary disinfection procedures and veterinary checks which the EU believed were being carried out.

Government lawyers and officials have warned ministers repeatedly about the persistent breaches of British and EU rules covering the export of live animals, according to industry and Whitehall sources.

Ministers were about to take steps against the trade before they were distracted by the eruption of the latest BSE row, the sources say.

The fraud unit of the EU agriculture directorate has begun an investigation and is demanding an explanation from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Ministers have been told to brace themselves for another scandal because current export certificates are illegal.

Members of the National Animal Health and Welfare Panel - which represents local authorities and has the power to prosecute offenders - have demanded an urgent meeting with MAFF.

It is understood they have enough evidence to prosecute the vast majority of live animal exporters in the country but have hesitated to do so because MAFF condoned the illegal behaviour.

Each group of animals sold for export should be offered separately and the auction ring or pen disinfected between sales.

Only four of the 100 or more markets involved in the export trade had licences and none, apart from the four, appeared to adhere to the regulations.

Angela Browning, a junior agriculture minister, acknowledged in a Commons written reply on March 21 that 1,800 consignments of calves between 16 and 42 days old had been exported in 1995 using certificates which ministers have now been told were illegal.

In the same year more than one million sheep were exported by similar methods. There is no age restriction on the export of sheep but the strict controls are the same. They too have been ignored.

Ms Lewis said: "The ministry has always said to us it could do nothing about the live export trade because it was legal under EC law. It now appears that it was not, and the ministry knew this and condoned it."

Graham Venn, chairman of the Local Authority Animal Health and Welfare Officers, issued a statement saying the allegations of illegality were true. His organisation was seeking an immediate meeting with MAFF.

The ministry said last night it considered the issue of the certificates "to be a narrow legal point. It has been raised by the European Commission and we are discussing it."

Disclosures about the trade in potentially infected animals sprang from the research of Penny Lewis, who works for the Protectors Animal Information Network, an organisation which seeks to end the live export trade.

She discovered that under EU regulations, markets which collected or sold animals for export should have a licence. The rules also said that every consignment should have a health certificate from a vet before leaving the farm.

Defensive wall blocks way to Euro conference for Vinnie Jones, sporting ambassador



Vinnie Jones: mistaken identity? PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID BRIDGES

VINNIE JONES'S new career as a self-appointed ambassador of sporting tolerance and fair play got off to a bad start yesterday when he was refused admission to a Council of Europe conference on sport and the organisers tried to throw him out of his hotel.

The faces of conference organisers were as red as the card Jones has seen 11 times in his football career when the Wimbledon footballer arrived at the conference in a chauffeur-driven car only to be told that there was no record of him

having been invited. "It seems to me they have got frightened and changed things at the last minute," said Jones. "But why didn't they tell me? It's a real cock-up."

"When we got here, they even tried to move us to another hotel," said his adviser, Steve Davies.

The Dutch minister of sport Erica Terpstra fielded a junior spokesman to explain the error, perhaps aware of Jones's glib that "if you sort their top geezer out early on you win". Jones won anyway, without resort to the commitment that once saw him booked within six seconds of kick-off when playing for Chelsea. "He can sit in on

the conference," said the spokesman, "but he is not going to say anything. It seems that he received the invite by mistake."

Instead, Jones was to be let loose on a television programme last night with top sportsmen Michael Schumacher, Damon Hill and Eric Cantona, an event he decided to prepare for with a long lunch in Amsterdam town centre away from "the stuffy atmosphere" of yesterday's conference. "I don't know what I'm going to say yet," said Jones. "I'm always spontaneous."

Jones has recently been keen to nurture an image other than his hard-won hard man tag, saying he is seeking a career in movies

when he finishes in football. He has since helped in a Health Education Authority campaign against testicular cancer and has been invited to address the Oxford Union and Eton colleges in the past year.

Jones says he is a changed character since the days when his description of how to take an opponent's Achilles tendon in the video Soccer's Hard Man, landed him with a £20,000 fine from the Football Association. "When I started playing I was only 20," said Jones. "Now I am older and more educated. I am captain of a Premier League side and now I can put my arm around the lads and guide them."

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Sketch

The Indian vote trick



Suzanne Goldenberg

NOTHING tests the skills of an Indian politician so much as an election. But the art lies not in such mundane concerns as election rallies: in a country with 590 million eligible voters and limited entertainment opportunities, anyone can get the crowds out.

It is what goes on behind the scenes that counts, skills that owe less to the recognised rigidity of parliamentary democracy than an ability to dole out favours.

Matang Singh, junior parliamentary affairs minister in the outgoing Congress (I) government has pledged to uphold the usual traditions — the senior minister sadly having been forced to sit out this election after being charged with corruption.

"Madame, you just watch me now. This is how you rule a country," said Mr Singh. Even in Assam, a state so small and remote, most Indians find it more convenient to ignore it, there was work to be done. With a posse of commandos guarding the door of his hotel suite, backed by large numbers of police, there was no doubting Mr Singh's importance.

The timing was crucial. It was the last day for candidates to withdraw from the elections, which will be spread across several days late this month and early next.

Mr Singh was desperate to maximise the chances for the Congress in what is expected to be a hard-fought campaign, by getting his candidates' opponents to step down.

"Tell them to withdraw, and leave the party, and announce it to the press," he screamed down the phone line. "Tell them, it's me ordering them to withdraw." And then he belatedly returned to the room at large: "Bring tea."

He adjusted his lustrous cap before resuming the lotus position on the sofa. While he waited for the next caller, he turned his gaze to the gyrations of the Hindi-language movie on the television set. "That's one more out," he laughed. Mr Singh was enormously impressed by his own craftiness. An ethnic Bihari who parlayed his connections to coal suppliers into a career as the Rajya Sabha (upper house) member for Assam, he boasted that he enjoys the full confidence of the prime minister, P. V. Narasimha Rao.

And well he should. In just one afternoon, through a series of ferocious telephone calls, he persuaded opposition candidates in 12 or 13 constituencies to withdraw in favour of the Congress.

It was half-an-hour past the deadline for withdrawals, but Mr Singh didn't give up. A change of tone, and he was on the phone to the chief minister, the police chief, and the top government officials in the state, informing them of the drop-outs still to come.

Normally, he said, he cannot abide the chief minister of Assam. But the need to win took precedence, and so they did a deal. Mr Singh said he chose half the Congress candidates in the state, selecting them for their personal loyalty. "All my people have been taken care of."

He said he had been privy to other Congress calculations: reeling off the number of seats the party will drop or gain in 26 states. The figures, he said, had been supplied by "outside and internal agencies". Mr Singh grumbled, it's clear he was not India's intelligence agencies have been used to assess the party's electoral prospects.

As the afternoon ticked on, more callers arrived: the candidates who have been persuaded to step down for Mr Singh. They set down a sack of powder, the betel nut which has stained Mr Singh's teeth blood-red after years of chewing. They stooped to touch his feet in a sign of respect, and then stepped back, awaiting their reward.

Mr Singh fluttered the fingers of his right hand in the air, a gesture of dismissal. "I will accommodate them in the long run," he said after they left, chastened. "They can join the party."

First night

Wholesome but untouchable

Lyn Gardner

Definitely Doris The King's Head, Islington

DEFINITELY one for the fans only. Leo Carusone and Patty Carver's tribute to Doris Kappelhoff, better known as Doris Day, is as cute and wholesome as the lady's little snub nose.

Definitely Doris does for fans what the Rocky Horror Show did for fetishist tighties. Its success depends entirely on how many reprises of Que Sera, Sera you can take. Quite a lot, judging by the first night response.

"I knew her before she was a virgin," quipped Oscar Levant. He probably wasn't joking. It's as a virgin that Day, screen star turned animal lover, is immortalised here. She is an untouchable Snow White who once a week smothered herself in a barrier of Vaseline, but who none the less remained the object of innocent adoration by fans whose sad little tales of unrequited love provide the link between the songs in this revue-style show.

There is the wardrobe assistant who is asked briefly to stand in for the stand-in on the set of Day's first screen hit, *Romance on the High Seas*. "The most incredible experience of my entire life. Because for one brief moment I became Doris Day," she enthuses. Then there is Randy Right, who thinks he must be Mr Right for Doris. "I've gone from firecracker to time bomb. It was meant to be."

Doris is even a one-woman dating agency, bringing together her fans simply because of their shared love for her. Presumably these marriages will be made in heaven, just like the screen unions between Day herself and Rock Hudson in the sixties comedy *Two Weeks in the Country*, or Hudson's death from AIDS which is implied but never made explicit.

In fact the authors have been so determined to present a sanitised, positive, upbeat picture of their idol that she all but disappears, reduced to a good set of teeth, 30-odd easy listening tunes, and a few words of wisdom to rival Chairman Mao. "I believe dogs are on earth to teach us about love."

The trouble, of course, is that the songs that made Day famous are not her own, and that what she brought to them was the resolute perkiness of a survivor rather than the bewilderment of someone like, say, Judy Garland. When Doris sings *I'll Never Stop Loving You*, or *Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered*, you know that she'll get over it.

It's difficult to celebrate such a personality without being anodyne, and Larry Pellegrini's high-gloss, intimate production, lovingly sung by the cast of five, never scratches the surface of the real Doris Kappelhoff. Day is condemned to be the girl next door for ever.

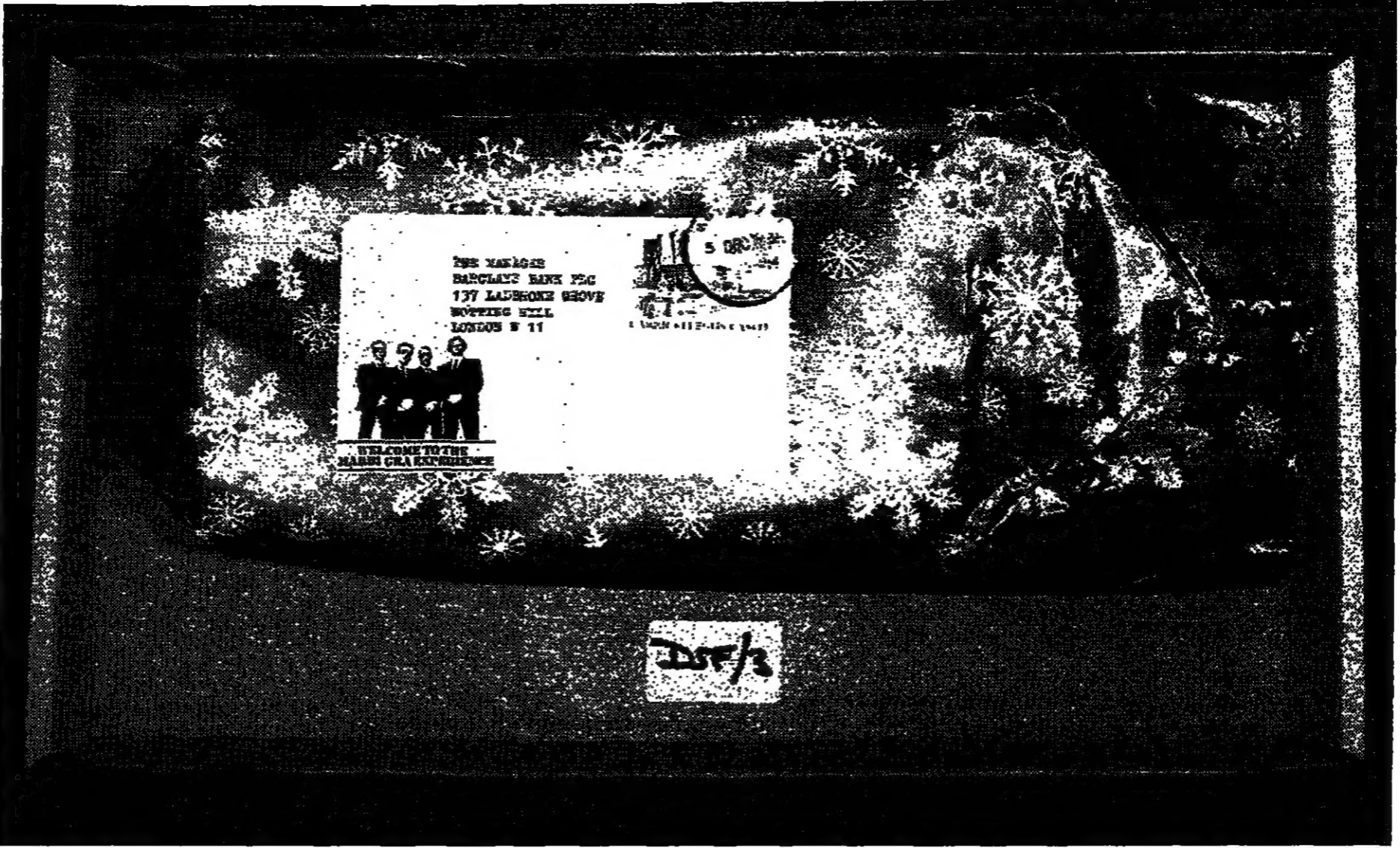
Definitely Doris runs until May 26

Scientists trace gene that causes premature ageing

Tim Radford Science Editor

A TEAM of scientists in Seattle, Washington, has tracked down a gene for premature ageing. Werner's syndrome strikes people in their twenties. Victims go grey, their skin loses its suppleness and they develop cataracts. They are also

prone to cancers, heart disease and die before they are 50. The discovery of a faulty gene which prematurely ages those people who inherit the gene from both parents is reported in the US journal *Science* today. British scientists working on the ageing process hailed the discovery by Gerard Schellenberg and scientists at the University of Washington as a landmark.



One of the bombs, delivered to Barclays' branch in Ladbrooke Grove, west London in December 1994 and, below, the 'Reservoir Dogs' logo and message which appear on the devices

Barclays bomber 'may be acting alone'

Extortionist could be ex-military man claiming to act for group with a grudge against a bank

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

THE extortionist who has sent 25 explosive devices with demands for money from Barclays Bank may be an ex-military man who is pretending to represent a group with a grudge against the bank.

Graham had been approaching what they believed was a crucial point this week as the bomber issued a one-week ultimatum. Police had hoped to maintain secrecy while negotiations continued.

But the union which represents more than two thirds of Barclays Bank staff yesterday attacked the "completely irrational secrecy". Paul Snowball, general secretary of Unifi, said: "Staff were endangered every day for 16 months, and no one knew a thing about it. It's a miracle more people weren't injured."



Barclays, on the advice of the police, did not concede to his demands for large sums of money. He told the bank to communicate through the columns of the Daily Telegraph, but failed to make contact when police responded anonymously with small advertisements.

Last week the bomber, using the name Mardine Graham, appeared to lose patience and wrote to the Daily Mail.

The letter stated: "Mardi Gra is the codename of a small group of Barclays Bank victims who are in the process of reversing the tide of fortune into their favour after a year of activity. Our earlier devices were designed as frighteners to demonstrate political will, ability to strike

Blackouts imposed to help negotiations but can raise media fears of abuse by publicity-shy police

London before being released by the Metropolitan Police on April 3. Scotland Yard had requested a blackout until the completion of the operation.

One of the longest silences was during the investigation into the extortionist Rodney Witcheo, a former Metropolitan Police officer who had decided he could commit the perfect crime by threatening to contaminate pet foods and baby foods. He succeeded at first, persuading his targets to pay £30,000 into a bogus account, and drawing money from cashpoints. But he became cocky and lazy, and was caught trying to take money from a machine.

The police feared publicity would alert what they believed to be a gang. Once the story was revealed, it led to copycat blackmail attempts.

During the height of the IRA's bombing campaign, a media blackout was requested by the Association of Chief Police Officers concerning what were believed to be IRA attempts to attack Territorial Army offices in England. Undercover officers had been assigned to the offices, and it was feared attempts to catch the IRA in the act would be blown by news coverage.

Reporters expressed disquiet at the open-ended nature of the blackout, and it was withdrawn. Some journalists fear blackouts can be misused to avoid embarrassment, or the inconvenience of an investigation coming under scrutiny.

Air conditioning fans German airport blaze as death toll rises

At least 18 dead and 150 hurt as smoke engulfs arrivals terminal

Ian Traynor in Stuttgart

AT LEAST 18 people were killed and scores more injured in a fire at Düsseldorf airport in northern Germany yesterday. Most of them apparently died after smoke and fumes from a shop fire overwhelmed the air conditioning system and engulfed the entire airport terminal.



Police were unable to provide details of identity or nationality of the dead. The smoke was so thick in the terminal that firefighters and police were unable to recover some victims. A police spokesman said: "Rescue workers found some of the bodies in a lift in the arrivals section. We are not ruling out further deaths."

The fire broke out in a flower shop in the arrivals hall at Terminal A, used mainly by the German national carrier, Lufthansa, for both domestic and international flights.

Panic broke out in the arrivals hall when the fire broke out at about 4.25pm. Officials evacuated the terminal and closed the airport, which was not expected to reopen until Friday.

There were no indications that the fire had been started deliberately. Repairs were being carried out at the airport's control tower last night centred on an accident during the work. The fire appeared to have started in the floor between the first and second floors.

Early reports said the fire was relatively minor, and criticism was mounting last night that the fire brigade had not responded quickly enough. One mobilised, all fire brigade units in Düsseldorf were dispatched, while fire engines and teams poured in to help from the surrounding area.

The delay was said to have allowed smoke to overwhelm

the air conditioning ducts and piping. Toxic fumes rapidly turned the terminal into a suffocation chamber. "My colleague saw sparks flying out of a ventilation grill over this flower shop, and he immediately called the fire brigade," an unidentified man told German state television.

All flights into Düsseldorf — capital of North-Rhine Westphalia, the biggest of Germany's 16 federal states — were turned away and planes were carefully removed from the terminal area as soon as the fire broke out and parked in safe places, said a spokeswoman for the airport.

The spokeswoman added that people were treated at the scene before being transported to hospitals. Uninjured travellers were taken to hotels or to the Konrad Adenauer Airport, which services Cologne and Bonn. Planes that had been scheduled to arrive at Düsseldorf, 35 miles to the north, were being redirected.

Pilot, 7, dies in attempt at record

Martin Walker in Washington

AN attempt by 7-year-old Jessica Dubroff to become the youngest pilot to fly across North America ended in tragedy yesterday. Her single-engine Cessna aircraft crashed as she took off during a hailstorm in Cheyenne, Wyoming, killing herself, her father and

her flying instructor. The aircraft had just completed the first leg of the journey, from the Pacific Coast at San Francisco across the Rocky Mountains to Cheyenne. The flight should have ended at Cape Cod, near Boston, today before flying back to California to win Jessica the round-trip record, even though she would not be old enough to qualify for a full pilot's

licence until the year 2005. "I love flying so much, I can't wait to get back into the air," were the young girl's last known words, given to a local television crew in Wyoming as she completed her pre-flight checks.

The Cessna-177 aircraft was equipped with dual controls. Jessica sat in the main pilot's seat, with special extensions to allow

her, at 4ft 2in, to reach the rudder pedals. Her flying instructor, Joe Reid, sat at the other controls beside her, and her father, Roy Dubroff, in the rear seat. "The weather was clearly a factor, with heavy rain and hail," said Dick Royce, of the Cheyenne Police Department. "But we have to await the Federal Aviation Authority inspectors for a full report."

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صحنه من الاعمال



Bridget Riley, for many the artistic voice of the '60s, and (below) Blaze, the first of a series including the one at the centre of the row with Harrods

PHOTOGRAPH: HENRIETTA BUTLER

Black and white spiral proves a grey area in Harrods v Riley

Alex Bellis

THE painting's original concept may have centred on a little visual trickery, but artist Bridget Riley was under no illusion when she popped into Harrods and saw a black and white spiral among the first floor racks.

Unlucky Harrods. Miss Riley, one of Britain's most successful contemporary artists whose abstract paintings in the 1960s for many defined the decade, is also considered rather litigious.



About a fortnight ago, a writ arrived at the Knightsbridge store, claiming last month's first floor display was a copy of her work, Blaze 4.

Harrods, whose in-house artists painted the spiral, have said they will contest the action in the High Court. It is believed their legal advice is that Miss Riley must show that she has suffered financial loss as a result of the painting as well as breach of copyright.

Miss Riley, aged 65 and a former National Gallery trustee, was unavailable for comment yesterday. But her solicitor, Sarah Byrt, issued a statement saying: "Miss Riley always takes a very severe view of infringement of her copyright."

The case will turn on complex issues of how simple a design can be to be covered by copyright. Several of Miss Riley's paintings use very basic images.

soon as Miss Riley complained. Her then lawyer, Stephen Garra, said at the time: "She was distressed because she has never allowed her paintings to be exploited in any commercial way and she was upset that people thought she'd made an exception for Sun Pat. I'm sure it's an excellent product, but Miss Riley felt it was not one which she wanted to endorse in any way."

Brian Sewell, the outspoken art critic who makes no secret of his irritation with most contemporary art, said: "I really don't see how you can take a particular range of colours and say this is my territory and nobody else's, which what she seems to be saying."

Israel bombs Beirut to punish Hizbullah

Sea and air attacks to last several days as Lebanon warned to curb guerrillas

David Hirst in Beirut and Derek Brown in Naqurah, south Lebanon

ISRAELI planes and gunboats, striking at Hizbullah targets across a broad area of Lebanon, yesterday bombarded Beirut for the first time in 13 years.

Israel's northern front commander, Major-General Amiram Levine, said the present operation would last several days at least. The raids are a challenge to Syria, Israel's deputy defence minister, Ori Orr, said they were intended to show the Lebanese government that Damascus could not protect it and there would be "other signals".

Lebanon's billionaire prime minister, Rafik al-Hariri, conceded that the country was defenceless against Israel's air raids: "we don't have the forces to stop them. But this will not solve the problem... It will only create more military operations and this vicious circle will continue. If they are looking for a solution, the solution is to withdraw from Lebanon territory," he said.

Euthanasia law triggers rush to outback by terminally ill

Christopher Zinn in Sydney

AUSTRALIA'S pioneering voluntary euthanasia legislation is attracting terminally ill patients to the outback, a medical group said yesterday.

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House price rises ease equity trap

Teresa Hunter

EVIDENCE that the housing market may have turned a corner emerged yesterday with news that sharp price rises in the South-east released almost 300,000 families trapped by negative equity.

However, the Halifax was more cautious. General Manager David Gilchrist said: "The latest figures are very good news indeed, but we want to see any improvement sustained for a few months more before we can claim that the recovery has begun."

Prices throughout Britain rose by 1.5 per cent over the last quarter, boosting the value of homes in nine out of 12 regions, according to the Halifax's regional house price survey, published yesterday. A typical house now costs 0.3 per cent more than a year ago. But in the South-east prices rose 2.2 per cent over the past three months, pushing house prices up by 1.3 per cent compared with a year ago.

Prices in Yorkshire and Humberside grew by 1.5 per cent over the quarter, and property in the North-west showed a 0.5 per cent price increase - leaving homeowners in the region with a 4 per cent fall over the year.

A television audience that had never previously been exposed to new music of anything but the most anodyne kind was confronted with an example of Britain's leading composer at his most gritty and uncompromising, slap bang in the middle of the musical establishment's most sacred rite.

Andrew Clements on Harrison Birtwhistle

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More young men opt to live with parents

James Meikle
Community Affairs Editor

FAMILY life is changing in thousands of homes as more young men choose to remain living with their parents rather than flee the nest for marriage, cohabitation or independence.

Experts yesterday said that while this could lead to rises in family tension and even violence, it may improve relationships by giving children the chance to see their parents as independent adults rather than just as parents.

The Survey of English Housing, based on interviews with 20,000 households and published by the Office for National Statistics, showed significant rises over the past four years in the proportion of adults aged between 20 and 34 staying put. There were fewer young couples forming households, while figures for under-35s opting for a single life remained static.

This may be partly a reflection of the recession and poor private housing prospects in the early 1990s — the number of young adults owning homes also fell in the same period while those renting privately rose. But the trend towards later marriage may also be an important factor.

Well over half of men aged 20-24 live with their parents, as do nearly a quarter of men aged 25-29. Four in 10 of students — who traditionally went away to college — live with their parents.

Unemployment is higher among under-30s living away from home than among those with their parents. The report says: "Unemployment did not, on this evidence, force men and women at these ages to give up independent living and return to their parents. Having a full-time job was not a necessary precondition for living independently."

Alan Cooklin, a consultant in family psychiatry and an academic at University College, London, said: "In our culture we tend to think of

maleness and adulthood in terms of separation, particularly in moving away from home and mother.

"You tend now to get more problems and more potential for violence, between mothers and sons particularly. I see a significant number of these."

Relate, the marriage guidance organisation, said it had dealt with many couples for whom the departure of children had been "quite a shock" as they discovered they needed serious work on their own relationship.

Julia Cole, Relate's press officer, said there may be gains in having children around for longer "after the storm of teenage tantrums", allowing all those involved to see the others as independent adults rather than mothers, fathers, sons or daughters.

Adult offspring should not expect parents to continue to clean up, do the washing and cook the whole time. "I can predict situations where there may be rows over that. But parents should allow them to behave as adults in a family home. You may be pleased if they are being responsible by doing the washing up but less so by someone expressing adulthood by coming home at four o'clock and making a lot of noise."

Other experts said yesterday the stay-at-home trend among younger unmarried people would be unlikely to alter as independent adults' projections that another 4.4 million homes would be needed over the next 20 years. The explosion in older people living alone after divorce or their partner's death was likely to continue.

One other finding could provide fresh ammunition for opponents of new housing benefit restrictions on unemployed people aged under 25. The report said the benefit was not a factor in encouraging young single people to leave home for private accommodation. Even those entitled to it, often did not claim.

Housing in England 1994/5, HMSO, £30.



A photomontage, above, suggests how the Angel of the North would appear if placed by the A1 near Gateshead and, below, Gormley's sculpture

Sculpture of angel to rise before doubting Geordies

Michael Ellison
Arts Correspondent

TEN years after a city on the Tyne thought it was being lumbered with a white elephant, it was rewarded yesterday with £584,000 of lottery money for a 65ft statue of a dark angel overlooking one of the country's busiest roads.

The doubters said in 1986 that MetroCentre in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, home to 350 shops, would never work in the recession-hit North-east.

But last year it was judged the most successful retail development in Britain. And yesterday Lord Gowrie, chairman of the Arts Council, which made the lottery grant, said people would learn to love the 100-tonne Angel of the North, even though a petition of 4,000 was raised against it and 83 per cent of people in a telephone poll said they would prefer the A1 western bypass to remain unadorned by the work of the Turner prize-winning artist Anthony Gormley.

"I am reminded of the history of the Eiffel Tower," said Lord Gowrie. "I think a lot of Parisians were against it. They thought it an ugly monstrosity, but it would be very interesting to hear

their views now. I believe it [the angel] will become the great visual symbol of the North of England, welcoming visitors from the south."

Gormley's angel was commissioned by Gateshead council and has a 165ft wingspan, almost the same as a jumbo jet.

It is likely to be in place at a total cost of £900,000 this time next year.

Apart from National Lottery money, the project has received £150,000 from the European Regional Development Fund and £45,000 from Northern Arts.

Jonathan Wallace, one of the council's 14 Liberal Democrat members, said: "To award such a huge sum of money for what is basically a pile of junk is obscene."

"I despair for the people who will have this statue stuck on their doorsteps."

Martin Callanan, the only Tory member, said: "It is ruining a piece of nice countryside."

He added: "One problem is it is not stuck in an art gallery where people can view it they walk. It is so prominent you can't help but notice it."

"Everybody can see it whether they like it or not."

Gormley, famous for cast-iron moulds of his own body and Field, thousands of small terracotta figures.

said: "I hope it does provoke strong feelings. I'm not surprised at the controversy; it's quite normal."

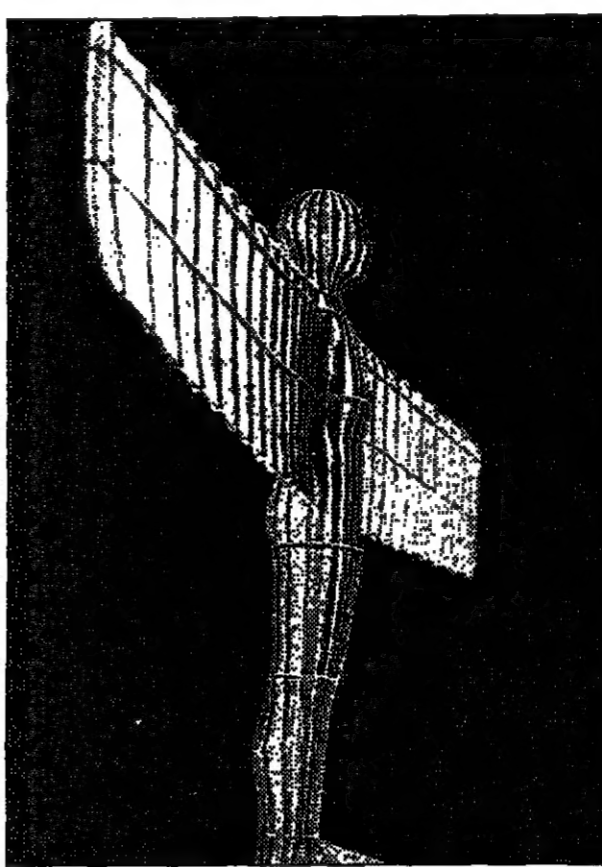
He added: "When it's up, people will have a look and then make their minds up."

"What's great is that we can do it, because at times it has seemed uncertain that we would be able to do so."

"There are only a couple of councillors objecting, but they seem very vocal."

The sculpture is costing £350,000 to make and put up, but landscaping, road improvements and work to stabilise the site will also provide £450,000 of work for specialist, local companies.

The angel, considered the most notable piece of engineering in the area since the Tyne bridge was opened in 1928, will be Britain's tallest sculpture and will be seen by 33 million people a year.



'Rogue royal' romance on rocks

Vivek Chaudhary

THE most maverick and some would say, most modest member of the Royal Family yesterday announced that she has separated from her husband.

Marina Mowatt, the daughter of Princess Alexandra, the Queen's first cousin, and Sir Angus Ogilvy, sparked considerable controversy when she married freelance photographer Paul Mowatt in 1990 — shortly after becoming pregnant.

In a newspaper article Ms Mowatt — 28th in line to the throne — then accused her parents of trying to persuade her to have an abortion or a "quickie" marriage when they discovered she was pregnant.

But the wedding was a far cry from the usual royal bash: Marina's parents were the only royals to attend; the bride wore black; and the couple settled down to married life in a semi-detached in Twickenham, south-west London.

The couple's first child, Zhenouka, was born in May 1990, 3½ months after the wedding. A second child, Christian, was born in 1993.

A statement by solicitors Max Bittel Greene issued on behalf of Marina and Paul, both aged 32, blamed the separation on long-standing "marital difficulties" and stressed that no one else was involved.

It said: "It is with great sadness that Marina and Paul Mowatt today announced that they have separated, having been experiencing marital difficulties for some time."

"No one else is involved."

"Both Marina and Paul are very sad that this situation has been reached and both are now intent that the interests of their children must be paramount."

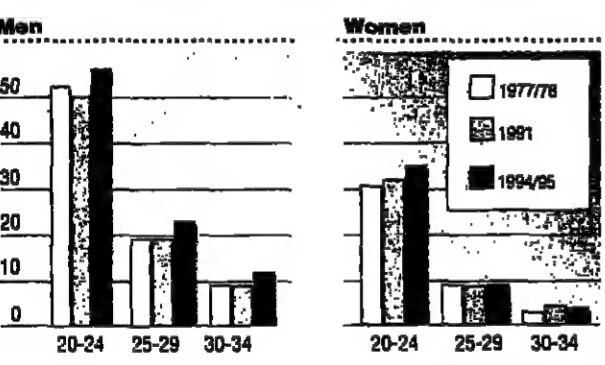
"This is a private matter and for the sake of the children, Marina and Paul wish to avoid unnecessary publicity which might upset the children."

A spokesman for Princess Alexandra said: "Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus are sad to learn of what has happened."

"Obviously it's a private matter for Marina and her husband but Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus will of course do everything they can to help their daughter and her young family at this difficult time."

Home comforts?

Percentage of men and women still living with their parents.



Source: English Housing Survey

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Trust in £4m effort to save last refuge of red squirrel

Paul Brown
Environment Correspondent

THE red squirrel's last refuge in southern England is being washed away and the National Trust is to dump thousands of tonnes of rock in the sea in an effort to save the threatened rodents.

The jetty and a row of cottages on Brownsea Island in Poole harbour, Dorset, are in imminent danger after the sea wall collapsed at the weekend after being undermined by strong tides which have been eroding the 500-acre island more every year.

Barry Guest, the trust's property manager for the island, said: "In recent years we have been getting short, vicious storms which can do tremendous damage. We only need one force 10 gale and anything could happen."

Brownsea Island is visited by 100,000 people a year who take the five-minute ferry from the mainland before touring the woods to see some of the large colony of red squirrels which has been protected against grey squirrels dominating the mainland.

The trust is to place 10,000 tonnes of boulders beneath the sea wall and jetty to protect the island from being scoured away. The death of harbour reed beds due to pollution and dredging for ferries is believed to have increased the effect of the tide.

The remedial work must be completed by September, when Mr Guest fears the cottages may be lost in a winter of bad weather.

Emergency funds are being used to pay for the work but the trust is asking supporters to buy one tonne boulders at £30 each to help raise the £250,000 cost.

VIRGIN CRUSH COKE AND PEPSI IN TASTE TEST.



It's official. Virgin is the nation's favourite cola. In independent taste tests carried out all over the UK by The Harris Research Centre* both regular and diet Virgin flattened their Coke and Pepsi counterparts. If that doesn't make the opposition see red, they'll certainly feel blue.



*Based on independent taste tests carried out by The Harris Research Centre, March 1995

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Murals rewrite city's history

Martyn Hales

MANCHESTER is restoring the most picturesque records of its 2,000-year history. The murals of Ford Madox-Brown were commissioned last century after the city fathers decided Manchester could profit from some respectable heritage, said Brian Cardy, who is leading the conservators' team. "Manchester was Cotomanopolis, the centre of their world, and they wanted to present the city as steeped in history, some of it rather spurious."

Anxieties were expressed about the condition of Madox-Brown's depiction of the baptism of King Edwin about 15 years after he completed the work in Manchester Town Hall at the end of the century.

"Edwin was not actually baptised in Manchester; it was possibly Durham or York. Madox-Brown has obviously interpreted the idea," said Mr Cardy. Other interpretations included using members of the Boddingtons brewing dynasty as models for devout courtiers.

The team is working inch by inch with organic solvents and scalpels.



Artistic surgery... Conservator Brian Cardy working on the Ford Madox-Brown murals at Manchester town hall. PHOTOGRAPH DENIS THORPE

Shut care homes, says minister

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

A HEALTH minister last night told local authorities to close old people's homes to save money as a survey indicated that £125 million cuts are being made in social services budgets.

John Horam, junior health minister, said authorities should "not miss the opportunity to cut back on bureaucracy and to close care homes owned by the council where the service can be provided with better value by the independent sector."

The number of residential homes run by local authorities has fallen sharply in recent years. Under the community care system, home residents are eligible for an allowance of £54 a week, or £60 in London, only if they are in private or voluntary establishments.

However, latest figures show that 60,000 of the 95,500 state-supported residents of care homes in England are in local authority premises.

Mr Horam was responding to a survey by the Association of Directors of Social Services of 76 social services departments in England and Wales - some 70 per cent of the total. The association extrapolates that cuts totalling £135 million have been imposed this month on social services budgets for 1996/97.

Tad Kubisa, the association's president, said: "Our capacity to respond to rapidly increasing demands and needs has reached a critical point."

The survey found that 20 of 22 metropolitan authorities were making cuts, as were 20 of 29 shire counties, eight of 13 London boroughs, two of

Young becoming 'dunces of Europe'

John Carvel, Education Editor

BRITISH youngsters are on the way to becoming the dunces of Europe, local authority leaders warned yesterday after hearing evidence from the careers service that the proportion of 16-year-olds dropping out of education rose last year for the first time in recent record.

A survey of 600,000 young people ending compulsory education after passing their sixteenth birthdays showed that only 87.5 per cent stayed on full-time courses at school or college, compared with 88.1 per cent in 1994.

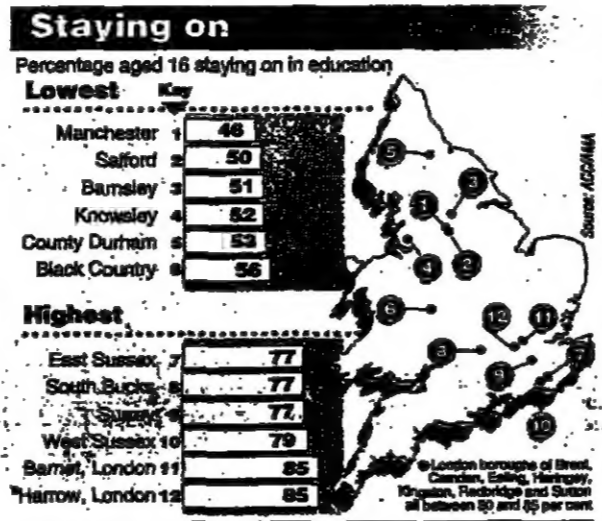
This is the first drop since the careers service started collecting comprehensive data seven years ago, raising doubts that the Government's targets for producing a more qualified workforce by the year 2000 can be achieved.

The percentage staying on

in any form of education - including part-time courses and employment - also fell for the first time from 83 per cent to 81 per cent. "There is some evidence... that a small but growing number of young people are either opting out of the recognised education, training and employment market, or at least are deferring entry to it," said the report by the UK Heads of Careers Services, published by the local authority associations.

Graham Lees, education chairman of the Association of Directors of Social Services, said the figures were the most disturbing educational indicators for many years.

"They show we are heading to become the dunces of Europe. Britain has one of the poorest records in the EU for young people staying in education after 16 and going on to gain appropriate qualifications. As long as the staying-on rates were rising, we could



not go far enough to encourage staying on by integrating academic and vocational qualifications, he said.

The survey showed big regional variations in the drop-out rate. In northern England 57 per cent continued in education, 15 per cent had youth training, 6 per cent got a job, 10 per cent were unemployed and 8 per cent were untraceable. In south-east England 75 per cent continued in education, 5.5 per cent had youth training, 8 per cent had a job, 6 per cent were unemployed, and 6.5 per cent were untraceable.

The lowest staying-on rate was 46 per cent in Manchester, which compared with 85 per cent who stayed in education in the London boroughs of Barnet and Harrow.

The survey found:

- a decline in the percentage of young people entering youth training;
- an increase in the percentage unemployed or not available for work;
- an increase in numbers of 16-year-olds, which tended to mask the reduction in the percentage staying in education;
- much greater competition between colleges and schools with "increasingly aggressive marketing techniques" being used to attract students.

Alan Parker, the AMA's education officer, said the experts were uncertain why staying-on rates had started to fall. In the 1960s and 1970s young people often left school in a recession to chase for the few jobs available. In the 1980s and early 1990s they increasingly stayed at school to better their eventual prospects.

"We felt we were winning the battle for hearts and minds. Now we fear young people may be responding to a general malaise of hopelessness... given the higher rates of unemployment," he said.

School Leavers Destinations 1995: ACC Publications, £5.

'Dad's army' under fire

Labour plan to woo executives into teaching 'won't solve crisis'

Donald MacLeod, Education Correspondent

LABOUR'S plans for a "dad's army" of middle-aged executives to enter teaching would do little to solve a looming shortage in the classroom, headteachers said yesterday.

A row also erupted over the cost of proposals from David Blunkett, the shadow education secretary, to give staff a term's sabbatical leave after 15 years' service, as part of a 10-point programme to raise the status of the profession.

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers gave Mr Blunkett's ideas a warm reception at its annual conference in Glasgow. But he was attacked by James Peice, the

education minister, who said the scheme would cost £5 million if the estimated 240,000 teachers with 15 years' experience took advantage of it.

"Is this money to come from school budgets or is this another example of Labour not thinking things through?"

Sabbatical leave of between a term and a year to allow teachers to refresh their knowledge or work in industry would have to be phased in and could be met from existing training funds, Mr Blunkett said. Labour sources dismissed the government figures and said part of the cost would be met from business sponsorship.

Mr Blunkett told the conference that executives in their 40s and 50s considering a career change should be encouraged to go into teaching

Variations mar degrees

Marking system could lose its lustre without standardisation

Chris Mihill

THE degree system is in danger of falling into disrepute because of wide discrepancies in the awarding of degrees among universities, a researcher said yesterday.

The steadily increasing number of students obtaining good degrees could not be explained by better teaching or brighter undergraduates; instead, marking seemed to be getting easier.

Stephen Newstead, president of the British Psychological Society, said consistency should be given to setting up a national degree examination rather than universities granting their own awards. Examiners

Marking system could lose its lustre without standardisation

should also receive more formal training to iron out inconsistencies among different markers.

In his presidential address to the annual BPS conference in Brighton, East Sussex, Professor Newstead said there were serious flaws in the process of assessment at universities.

Mr Newstead, head of psychology at Plymouth University, has carried out research into the consistency of examination marking and has looked at other studies in the field.

He gave six examination essays from psychology students to 14 experienced examiners and found great variations in marks. In one case the same student was awarded a First by one ex-

and would obviously add to Brighton's range of attractions and its reputation as a major centre of youth culture and entertainment.

Alex Bellos reports on a planned British version of the Berlin Love Parade

BRITAIN is likely to host its own version of the Berlin Love Parade, an event inspired by British rave culture which has since become the largest dance music festival in the world.

From small beginnings in 1989, when 150 Berliners made their way down the city's Kurfurstendamm, the Love Parade has become an annual spectacle attracting up to 500,000 people. Revellers dance behind about 40 floats blaring out hardcore techno music.

More than just a street carnival, it is seen by many Germans as a loud political statement proclaiming solidarity between young Europeans. The music has no lyrics and so there is no language barrier between nationalities.

Britain's equivalent is due to take place in Brighton on July 20.

The Dance Parade will have half the amount of floats and plans to cater initially for 5,000 people.

The organisers have submitted plans to Brighton council, which is keen to be associated with such an event, although final permissions will be given after the local elections on May 2.

Ian Duncan, chairman of Brighton council's arts and leisure committee, said: "This is a very exciting proposal

Ravers to make Brighton rock

Alex Bellos reports on a planned British version of the Berlin Love Parade

and would obviously add to Brighton's range of attractions and its reputation as a major centre of youth culture and entertainment.

"I hope that no Brighton stick-in-the-muds or spoilsports will be opposing this innovative suggestion."

A UK dance parade brings full circle a youth culture that is widely seen to have started here in the late 1980s with acid house parties, but was curbed by anti-rave legislation.

Christian Vogel, an English DJ who has played the Love Parade, said: "The Germans really value English culture and English music. A lot of them do believe that dance culture began in the UK."

Kevin Grimshaw, a dance parade co-ordinator, said he got the idea after hitch-hiking to Berlin last year: "The atmosphere was truly enlightening. When people dance together they drop all pretensions and come together in mutual harmony and respect."

"I thought 'why did I have to go all the way there when the dance culture here is so vibrant and progressive?'"

Brighton already hosts several other parades during the year and the dance parade's licence is thought to depend on whether the highways authority agrees to another day of disruption.

Tribe Gathering - dubbed as dance music's Woodstock - is appealing against Chertwell district council's refusal to grant it a licence.

The day-long event is due to start on May 4 at Ormsor Park, Oxfordshire. All 30,000 tickets have been sold.

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Lebanon in firing line Hizbullah more daring UN powerless Golan deal hopes fade

Return to the bad old days

David Hirst in Beirut reports on the larger significance of the Israeli raids

TO ENTER the Dahiya, Beirut's southern suburb, yesterday was like going back in time to the civil war, to the reign of the militias which waged it in this teeming, impoverished, Shiite bastion, armed men of the Iranian-backed Hizbullah were out in force, standing in doorways, Kalashnikovs at the ready, controlling traffic and preventing access to the Hizbullah offices which three Israeli helicopters had just struck with air-to-ground missiles. There was only a sprinkling of Syrian and Lebanese soldiers in sight. If Hizbullah's members are classified as "terrorists", then the Dahiya is its vast, untrammelled haven. It was

just such havens which the international "anti-terrorist coalition", established after last month's summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, had made it its business to eradicate, or at least the Israelis and Americans had. In fact, Lebanon had always expected that it would be the first external target of a stepped-up "anti-terrorist" campaign, and of a growing need by Shimon Peres, the Israeli prime minister, to suppress public opinion thirsty for retribution. The assault on the capital was small, symbolic almost. Only one man died in Beirut. But as the first of its kind for 13 years, it was a big escalation, especially when taken with another air raid on a Hizbullah depot near the Syrian frontier, and a helicopter attack — also the first of its kind — on a Lebanese army position in Tyre. Hizbullah has given the Israelis more than the usual provocation recently. It insists it has not been violating the United States-brokered "understanding" that ended Israel's last great incursion into Lebanon, Operation Accountability, of summer 1983. Under that "understanding", Hizbullah agreed not to launch missiles into northern Israel, and Israel agreed not to strike civilian targets beyond its "security zone" in south Lebanon. But Hizbullah attacks have been growing in intensity, daring and sophisticated. In addition to its routine, long-range shelling, its men have gone on raids deep into the "security zone". And with Iranian support, but very

probably with Syria's too. Even more provocative, perhaps, is its rhetoric, which grows in menace and self-assurance. As one Israeli columnist said, it is no longer the Israeli government which "advises" border residents to go down into the shelters, it is Hassan Nasrallah, secretary-general of Hizbullah. Hizbullah boasts about Israel's acute dilemma. It knows it is impossible for Israel — as Mr Peres said last week — to withdraw from the "security zone", but also that it is very risky for Israel to mount an all-out attempt to crush Hizbullah once and for all. As widely expected in Beirut, Israel has tried something more psychologically daring and sophisticated than militarily effective. But it virtually guarantees that Hizbullah will retaliate in kind. And it will do so, not merely with Iranian support, but very

News in brief

France 'shaken by wave of racism'

A United Nations investigator said yesterday that France was being shaken by "a wave of xenophobia and racism", belying its image as the cradle of human rights. Reporting to the UN Human Rights Commission, Maurice Glele-Ahanhanzo said the problems of foreigners in France had been made worse by anti-immigration laws passed in 1993 which must now be amended. But he added that parties across the political spectrum were to blame for encouraging racism by using the issue of immigration as an easy vote-winner. Mr Glele-Ahanhanzo, a human rights expert from Benin, is the commission's "special rapporteur" on racism. The report, written after a 10-day fact-finding mission, examines attacks against immigrants, which are especially common against those from France's former colonies in North Africa. France's population of 58 million includes at least 4 million legal foreign residents and up to one million others believed to be there illegally. A survey in 1994 showed that 62 per cent of French people accept that they have racist attitudes. In the same poll, 88 per cent said they had witnessed racist incidents, with North Africans most often the victims. — *Reuters, Geneva.*

New trouble for Tyson

MIKE TYSON is alleged to have bitten a woman on the cheek and lip during a kiss, before thrusting her away in a Chicago night club, the incident which provoked the woman to file charges of sexual battery which could send him back to jail for breaking the terms of his probation. The Indiana probation service said yesterday they had "no immediate plans" to interview the world heavyweight boxing champion about the latest allegation, pending a decision by Chicago police and prosecutors whether to file formal charges. Nightclub staff and bodyguards have denied the woman's story. — *Martin Walker, Washington.*

Electoral 'fraud' in Quebec

THERE is evidence of electoral fraud at the count in Quebec's referendum on independence, according to an independent study. Ballots which were in favour of the No side — voting against separation — were rejected, unnecessarily in those polling stations where their numbers were gaining strength. The No side won the October referendum by only 54,000 votes. The report's author and Montreal lawyer, Andrew Orkin, who also supervised the South African election, said: "This is huge evidence of either bias or manipulation of fraud. The people who did the rejecting were all appointed by the Yes side." The governing Parti Quebecois has not commented; it is waiting for a report by Quebec's chief electoral officer, to be published later this month. — *Claire Traena, Toronto.*

Middle East nuclear appeal

PRESIDENT Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, opening a ceremony at which up to 63 African states will declare their continent free of nuclear weapons, called yesterday for a similar zone in the Middle East. "I urge... all the states of the Middle East to take a similar step between them so that we can protect this region from the dangers of these lethal weapons," Mr Mubarak said. Israel is widely believed to have nuclear weapons. It says it will discuss its nuclear programme only after peace throughout the region. Mr Mubarak also urged the five declared nuclear states — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — to speed up progress towards full nuclear disarmament. — *Reuter, Cairo.*

Hijacker rejects Israeli terms

A PLO hijacker, Leila Khaled, said in Amman yesterday that she has rejected Israeli terms for her return to Palestinian self-rule areas to attend a meeting on amending the PLO charter calling for the destruction of the Jewish state. Ms Khaled, a member of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, and a PLO faction that opposes President Yasser Arafat's peace deal with Israel, said she would still leave Amman for self-rule areas on Sunday. "The Israelis are still my enemies," she said. Israel said in February it would let Ms Khaled and 153 others, including some of the staunchest anti-Israeli guerrillas, return to attend the PNC meeting and settle in the West Bank or Gaza with their families if they wish. Ms Khaled said she would not agree to Israeli demands that she sign a paper denouncing "terrorism", backing the Middle East peace process and condemning attacks by Muslim bombers that killed 58 people in Israel. "I will refuse to sign any paper, even if this means them sending me back. I will not beg them to enter, even if I am really longing to enter!" — *Reuter, Amman.*

Indiscriminate selection

THE University of California regent who championed the abolition last year of positive discrimination was himself pushing two students for admission, it has been disclosed. The involvement of Ward Connerly, a property consultant in Sacramento and a black man, intensifies the scandal. A Los Angeles Times investigation has revealed that hundreds of students, often the sons and daughters of politicians, state officials, and university donors, gained entry to the nine-campus university by the back door. Mr Connerly, a conservative who led the board of regents' fight against affirmative action, denying favourable consideration of minority groups and women, now says he believes VIP admissions should be abolished. But his participation will fuel the campaign expected over the issue in this year's general election. — *Christopher Reid, Los Angeles.*

Andreotti murder trial starts

GULIO ANDREOTTI, the former prime minister of Italy accused of alleged ties to the Mafia, went on trial in Perugia yesterday for the murder of a journalist in 1979. Mr Andreotti (bottom right) is accused with Pippo Calò (escorted by policeman) of complicity with the Mafia in the killing of Mino Pecorelli, editor of a political scandal sheet who reputedly had compromising secrets about the politician. Mr Andreotti has denied any part in the killing or any Mafia link. — *Reuter.*

Court rules out boy's name

A SWEDISH court has ruled that the parents of a boy, aged five, broke the law by naming their son Broraxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx. Unfortunately Brorax whatever is not a recognised first name in Swedish law, even though the parents promise it is spokesman at the district court in Halmstad, southern Sweden, said yesterday. The parents were fined 2400 for failing to give their son a first name, despite arguing that their choice was "a pregnant, expressionist elaboration that we view as an artistic creation," the spokesman said. — *Jon Henley, Helsinki.*

Israeli attack narrows Clinton's choices

Martin Walker in Washington

AFTER behind-the-scenes American diplomacy had failed to stop Israeli retaliation for the guerrilla rocket attacks from Lebanon, the White House said yesterday it was "urging all sides to exercise restraint and minimise the tension and the violence". The plea was swiftly answered by Israel's northern front commander, who said the air and artillery strikes against guerrilla targets in Lebanon would continue for several days. The latest eruptions in Lebanon and the new freeze that has settled over the hopes of an Israeli-Syria peace agreement on the Golan Heights, have left the Clinton administration with little to show for its most sustained foreign policy initiative, the attempt to reach a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement. US officials insisted yesterday that "giving up on the peace process is not an option, and would only reward terrorists, extremists and our enemies of peace". But the window of opportunity for

any new US initiative is now perilously narrow, constrained by next month's Israeli elections and by the US presidential elections. It is constrained also by the different agendas of the main policy-makers in Washington, already complicated by a tradition of personal tensions between the National Security Adviser, Tony Lake, and the Secretary of State, Warren Christopher. But in an election year, with political fund-raising a prime consideration, President Clinton is not going to offend the pro-Israel lobby in the US by putting serious pressure on the Israeli government. Moreover, while remaining publicly neutral in the Israeli elections, Mr Clinton's security advisers have urged him to give wide latitude to the Shimon Peres government, rather than increase the chances of victory of the Likud Party. The main effort of American diplomacy yesterday was to press Syria to use its influence in Lebanon to discourage any escalating reaction to the Israeli attacks. The US difficulty is that while it can hope to influence

those Middle East governments it recognises, it has no relations with Iran, and little access to the guerrilla organisations like Hizbullah which are backed by Iran. But the anti-Israeli guerrilla groups in Lebanon also depend on Syrian assistance and the failure of US diplomacy to restrain Damascus in recent days has left the US with little leverage to apply on the embattled Israeli government. The US is now threatened with irrelevance as the regional dynamic takes over, driven by the Israeli elections, by the Hizbullah intemperance, and by Syria's realisation that it is not now likely to recover the Golan Heights this year. An Arab diplomat said: "Both Israel and the US underestimated the reaction in Syria and in the rest of the Arab world to the news of the defence agreement between Israel and Turkey. They may say it is limited to giving Israeli aircraft some rights to train and overfly in Turkish airspace, but to Syria that is bound to look like encirclement. If there was any prospect of Syria coming to terms with Israel, the Turkish agreement ended it."



Seeking safety... A Shi'ite family flee their home in the Bir el-Abed suburb of Beirut yesterday after Israeli helicopter gunships attacked Hizbullah. PHOTOGRAPH: AHMED AZAR

Waiting game

Derek Brown in Naqoura, South Lebanon

IT TOOK about 10 minutes to reach this place along the potholed road from the border; about as long as it took the Israeli jets to make their first return visit to Beirut in 14 years. But Naqoura was probably the last place on the minds of Israel's military planners yesterday, as they set about teaching the Lebanese their latest lesson. This is the headquarters of Unfil, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, and the least relevant army in the land. For more than a decade and a half, the multinational troops of Unfil have observed Israel's sporadic ravaging of its northern neighbour. They have also watched the Hizbullah guerrillas inflicting their pinprick attacks on Israel. Yesterday was the turn of the pinpoint attack, as one Israeli military correspondent was pleased to describe the helicopter strike on Hizbullah headquarters in a Beirut suburb. There were other attacks: in the Beka'a valley in eastern Lebanon, on villages to



the north of the occupation zone, and on a Lebanese army position in Tyre. Unfil did what it is always obliged to do: nothing. For Israel controls Unfil, just as surely as it dictates the rest of life in Lebanon. The 5,500 men of Unfil could only sit and watch and wait, until the next Israeli strike, and wait for the response of Hizbullah. Overhead in the leaden skies, helicopters clattered and warjets boomed their way through the sound barrier.

'Ghost town' demands retaliation

Reuter in Kiryat Simona

THE northern Israeli community of Kiryat Simona resembled a ghost town yesterday as men took to bomb shelters and women and children left for fear of more Hizbullah attacks from Lebanon. Town officials worked from a bomb shelter to organise the evacuation of women and children on buses from the border town, hit on Tuesday by rockets. A banner strung across a building site was directed at Israel's prime minister, Shimon Peres: "For sale: Ghost town at any price." Residents held angry demonstrations on Tuesday calling for retaliation against Hizbullah. A spokesman, Yoram Even Tsur, said: "This time we've come to the very end of the policy of restraint."

Attacks 'harm peace' warns Damascus

Reuter in Damascus

SYRIA criticised Israel for launching air strikes against Lebanon yesterday and said the attacks would harm the Middle East peace process. "What Israel did in Lebanon today has only one name. It is aggression," Syrian state-run radio said about the first raids on Beirut in 14 years. "This Israeli aggression is not justified by any means. Israel could not present any reason to explain or justify it," the radio said. "Aggression against civilians could never be justified." Last month Israel suspended the final round of peace talks with Syria and recalled its peace team from the United States, after Palestinian suicide bombers in Israel killed 58 people.

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سكنا من الاعمال

The Guardian Friday April 12 1996

Centre-left leader Romano Prodi seeks victory in next week's polls with his no-nonsense message, writes John Hooper in Vicenza

Professor hopes to win Italy without promises

THE man who hopes to be Italy's next prime minister is sitting in the back of his campaign bus, being hurried from side to side as it swings round corners on the way into Vicenza.

"You know something?" he says. "In the whole of this campaign, I've not been insulted by a single person. Not one."

Professor Romano Prodi, the centre-left's candidate in next week's general election, clearly finds this remarkable. But to find someone who would want to say cruel and offensive things to the professor would not be easy, they would need to be the kind of person who enjoys torturing special pupils.

Prof Prodi is nobody's fool. He headed and restructured Italy's giant state holding company, the IRI. His eyes can quickly acquire an assessing glint.

But he has a face that could have been moulded from vanilla fudge, and it radiates well-intentioned bonhomie. A more fitting counterpart to the moral cynicism which is the common coin of Italian politics would be hard to imagine. The aim of his campaign has been to emphasise this contrast.

Whereas his rival, the television magnate Silvio Berlusconi, makes eye-and-ear-catching promises of tax cuts, Prof Prodi — an economics teacher by vocation — tells electors there is no easy solution to Italy's problems. Whereas Mr Berlusconi uses the electronic media to project his message, Prof Prodi travels the country talking, and listening, as a politician.

"I think it's the only way to conduct politics," he says. "I wanted to be a bit different in a world homogenised by television." And while Mr Berlusconi

is usually seen coming and going in limousines, Prof Prodi travels wherever possible by train or bus.

This bus is admittedly a bit special. The back has been converted into a mini campaign headquarters.

In one half there are desks running down either side, on which have been installed a photocopier, a portable computer, a fax machine and — perhaps most important — a device for turning out strong espresso. In the other half are

yet intensely provincial — like an Italian Hereford, with more cash and far greater claims to fame as the city which houses many of Palladio's finest buildings.

Prof Prodi has come to the Veneto because the signs are that the election will be decided here. It is here that the right's divisions offer the newly united centre-left its best chances of breaking through.

But its flourishing small- and medium-sized businesses, and its strong support for Christian Democracy. The best dressed people in the piazza turn out to be teachers who have always voted for the left. In this respect, the professor faces a more difficult task than he had expected.

Lamberto Dini, who headed the non-party government which has run Italy since Mr Berlusconi's fall, threw his hat in the ring at the last moment. He offers moderate voters what Prof Prodi cannot — a track record in power.

The windows on the high-lety-singlety rooms at the back of the piazza are filled with golden, evening light by the time the professor begins. He has improved greatly as a speaker in the years since he entered politics and has developed a style well attuned to the pronounced cadences of his native Emilia.

He uses it to give a reasoned tour of the principal issues, from tax to Italy's role in Europe. Earlier in the coach he had cheerfully agreed with the recurrent criticism of his campaign — that it lacked the clarity of Mr Berlusconi's. "If you want to be clear, and untruthful, it is perfectly possible," he riposted.

But in a speech lasting well over half an hour, it is not merely the absence of trite pledges or facile sound bites that is striking. It is also the lack of a single specific undertaking. He does not promise to do this or that to the economy, build more schools or hospitals, or even bring down unemployment by a set percentage.

One leaves convinced that he is a decent man with a clear vision of the challenges facing Italy, but less than knowledgeable about what he would actually do if handed the power he seeks.

'You know, in the whole of this campaign, I've not been insulted by a single person. Not one'

'I wanted to be a bit different in a world homogenised by television'

sofas, a television and a video.

As we trundle into the Piazza dei Signori, scattering pigeons and pedestrians, one of the professor's aides casts an experienced eye over the waiting crowd. "Two thousand," he says without much enthusiasm.

It is notoriously difficult to read a significance into the size of the turnout, but one cannot but wonder whether, with 10 days to go before polling, Prof Prodi's time is best spent addressing a half-empty square.

His strategy of taking his politics to the people was certainly well suited to getting himself established as a national figure. Whether it is the best way to win this election is another matter.

like the one that Prof Prodi has just visited (which makes gear cogs for racing bikes) have given the Veneto virtually full employment. That makes it difficult to raise for a politician whose implicit promise is to create jobs, by means of a thorough restructuring of the economy.

The people gathered to hear the professor are mainly the kind who, in Britain, would read the Guardian, vote Labour and join Greenpeace, but who in Italy have traditionally backed the Communists. Several have arrived on bikes.

Prof Prodi's Olive Tree Alliance is, however, meant to attract the centre as much as the left. The only thing red in its emblem is the apostrophe of *L'Ulivo*. Yet there is not much sign of the electors who once in this area voted mas-



Romano Prodi... A more striking contrast to the cynicism of Italian politics would be hard to find. PHOTOGRAPH BY S. GRANATI

Slovak law 'threatens human rights'

Joe Cook in Prague

BOWING to international criticism, President Michal Kovac of Slovakia refused to sign draft legislation this week that would have enabled the nationalist government of the prime minister, Vladimir Meciar, to imprison political opponents.

A Western diplomat in the capital Bratislava said the legislation posed a "threat to human rights".

Mr Kovac returned the "defence of the republic" laws to parliament for further discussion after describing them as "undemocratic and disturbing". He said they contradicted the constitution, European pacts on human rights, and would hinder Slovakia's bid to join the European Union.

The loosely defined set of laws would have made it possible to ban public gatherings and curtail the expression of political opinion.

They were drafted to appease the ultra-nationalist wing of Mr Meciar's increasingly authoritarian government. The nationalists had made their support for ratification of a bilateral treaty with Hungary conditional on the new laws.

Successful implementation of the Slovak-Hungarian treaty is seen as an essential part of both countries' efforts to join the EU and Nato. Hungary's parliament ratified the treaty more than a year ago.

Observers suggest that the ambiguous wording of the law is implicitly intended to curtail the political activities of Slovakia's 570,000-strong ethnic-Hungarian minority, which Slovak nationalists believe is bent on uniting southern Slovakia with Hungary.

Within a day of the laws' passage through parliament, the EU sent a delegation representing the president of the EU, Jacques Delors, Italy and Ireland to lodge a formal expression of concern with the Slovak foreign minister, Juraj Schenk.

He said the laws were similar to legislation in Sweden, France, Belgium and Germany — a claim dismissed by those countries.

The Austrian chancellor, Franz Vranitzky, after meeting Mr Meciar this week, said the Slovak prime minister may now have the legislation "renegotiated" in parliament before it is returned to Mr Kovac for signing. But under Slovak regulations, the president has no power to return a law that has been passed by parliament a second time.

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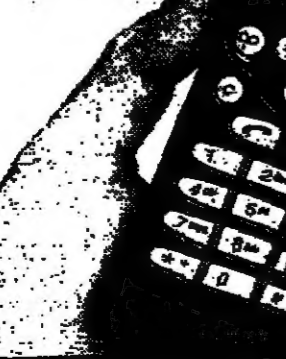
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We bought some smashing fish and chips, shoving on great wads of vinegar and salt and ketchup. We managed to eat quite a few mouthfuls in front of appreciative constituents before schlepping back to Barbara's for a fabulous lunch of olive, bacon and endive salad. Bel Littlejohn

Page 9

How to find a carrot.



To help locate the different types of food on a plate, a blind person can treat the plate like a clock face and place the food on it accordingly. So meat sits at 12 o'clock, potatoes at 6 o'clock and carrots at 9 o'clock.

It's a simple solution to an everyday problem. But have you ever considered how a blind person might iron a shirt or fry an egg? The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) produces everyday items which help visually impaired people carry out tasks sighted people take for granted. We also offer training to help people who have

lost their sight learn the necessary skills to lead independent, active lives. RNIB's work is especially important if you consider that many visually impaired people live alone. For more details about RNIB call us on 0345 023040.



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Principles and payments

Nolan needs to make quangos accountable

JOHN Malby could be feeling miffed today. Until yesterday he must have believed he held one of the best-paid public sinecures in the land: £15,000 a year for 10 days work as the chairman of the Dover Harbour Board...

material benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.

To their credit some new quango members have urged Nolan to end their payments. Members of Training and Enterprise Councils, housing association trustees and grant maintained school governors have all spoken up in support of no fees. But there are other quangos where payment seems absolutely appropriate...

There remain much more serious issues to be resolved than pay if the 6,000 quangos and their 70,000 members are to be made more accountable. A new Commissioner for Public Appointments, Sir Len Peach, began work three months ago. His main themes — transparency, balance, merit — are right but much more radical changes are needed...

Diplomacy: Israeli style

Is it really good judgment to return to bombing Beirut?

ISRAELI says Prime Minister Shimon Peres, has no policy of "self-restraint", only a policy of "judgment". His statement on the south Lebanon crisis, made just two days before Israeli planes and ships blasted Lebanon and rocketed Beirut yesterday for the first time in 14 years, can at least claim the virtue of honesty...

Mr Peres, is it really good "judgment" in his terms to reopen the deep sore of Lebanon by killing and wounding its civilians and returning to Beirut? Though these incidents are relatively small in scale, they touch on a very sensitive historical nerve and carry an unsettling risk of escalation. The truth is that the shaky stand-off on the Israeli-Lebanese border has been unravelling for some time...

The birth of a winning streak

How this page helped West Bromwich Albion turn the corner

WHILE HAPPY to join the acclaim for West Bromwich Albion's latest triumph — a 2-1 win at Leicester on Tuesday — we are sorry to see this ancient club's revival since Christmas so widely ascribed to the signing of the talented Dutch midfielder Richard Sneekes from the even more stricken Bolton Wanderers...

salvation, as we modestly pointed out at the time, was the appearance of a kindly and supportive leader in this newspaper, such as five years before had rescued Sheffield United from relegation when all looked lost. Our comment appeared on December 28. The next match, at Ipswich on January 3, was lost — possibly, some supporters suggest, because some of the team are slow readers. Yet since then the Albion have hardly looked back. Of the subsequent 14 games, they have won seven, drawn five, and lost a mere two. Few more potent demonstrations of cause and effect are known to philosophers...



Letters to the Editor
Those big lottery numbers

It takes two to quango — and Sir Brian is the one who's in step

YOUR leader (April 10) about the National Lottery misrepresents the key messages of the National Lottery Yearbook published by the Directory of Social Change. The Yearbook recognises that the lottery has been absorbed with enthusiasm into the daily life of the country...

land and the Heritage Lottery Fund both now have a minimum 10 per cent partnership funding requirement for awards under £100,000, as do the Millennium Commission for their awards scheme. As a result of the success of the lottery, we have been able to respond to the demands for using lottery funds to help develop the talents and skills of people, as well as continuing to revitalise capital infrastructure.

facts to the contrary. In just 70 weeks, Camelot has allowed Camelot and its agents to withhold £875 million to run one computer and about 30,000 outlets. No lottery has ever cost so much. The financial wizardry is this: the costs of a computer, advertising and 500 staff are constant. Only the agents do more work if there are more tickets to sell. So costs as a percentage should apply only to the agents (5 per cent).

THE references to P.L.A. Chairman Sir Brian Shaw in your lead article (Nolan: end quango scandal, April 11) are inaccurate and misleading. The premise that attendance at 12 main board meetings a year equals only 12 days' work equals remuneration of £4,000 per day is superficial and fatuous. Quite apart from chairing main board meetings, Sir Brian is a member of all board committees (apart from the Remuneration Committee) through which the P.L.A.'s statutory work is done. He represents the P.L.A. and the Port of London at numerous meetings and functions to promote the Port's interests. He is based at the P.L.A.'s principal office and is either here or available to the P.L.A. every work day and contactable at all other times.

In picking on Sir Brian as a "quango king" you could hardly have chosen a more inappropriate target. Geoffrey Knalls, Secretary, Port of London Authority, 95-60 St Katharine's Way, London E1 9LB.

On April 1 I announced changes to the lottery rules which will allow the establishment of "talent funds" to provide individual support to talented sports people, and to develop the creative abilities of young people in particular, and a number of other initiatives aimed at helping to increase participation in sport and access to the arts. Over 3,500 awards have already been made, and the increasing number of awards in the future coupled with the changes to the rules will allow the benefits of the lottery to be felt by people in every community across the country.

YOU quote Virginia Bottomley as saying: "No body runs a lottery for so little." Oldie has contacted her of this, despite the glaring

If you must print photographs of Virginia Bottomley (April 10) could you please find one without her customary, and groundless, self-assured smile. I realise pictures of her without a smile are as rare as unsigned copies of Thatcher's memoirs or Hattersley's novels, but it would surely be worth looking. G N Booth, Executive Director, The Lottery Promotion Company Limited, 41 Floral Street, London WC2E 9DG.

YOUR reporters, and possibly Lord Nolan, are moving into curious moral territory in putting the view that quango members should be unpaid and do their work purely in the spirit of public service. Quangos come in all shapes and sizes. For some, payment of board members is clearly inappropriate; for others it is imperative if they are to get the standard of government which they require. The two cases you highlight, the P.L.A. and the Dover Harbour Board, were unfortunately picked as they illustrate the danger of your thesis. These bodies are still organised as trusts, but like other trusts, most of which are in the commercial sector, they have to be run as efficient industrial companies and have the best chairman that can be found to lead them. If they fail in this they will go into decline.

For the size and responsibility of the jobs, it looks as if the Government has done very well for us. Sir Gerald Elliot, 11 Howe Street, Edinburgh EH3 6TD.

Our Greer

REMEMBER growing up with Greer Garson (First Lady of the Blitz, April 6). My family knew Mrs Garson and her daughter Eileen Garson (who later used a family name instead of Eileen) very well. They lived in East Ham in London, as we did. Eileen attended the same school as my brother Rafik. It was what would later have called a grammar school, but it was housed in East Ham Technical College.

When in the sixth form, they acted in plays like Goldsmith's She Stoops to Conquer, and Eileen always came to our musical parties, where she contributed recitations. I remember a boy guest saying, when I told him that Eileen had a cold and was not coming: "Oh, but Eileen is the party." After leaving school, Eileen went to King's College, London, where she took parts in college plays and operas. JE Griffiths, 38 New Road, Solihull B91 3DP.

DESPITE the kind personality portrayed on the screen, Greer Garson was the least attractive of the many stars who worked at MGM E-street. She was conceited, haughty and artificial (including the colour of her hair). The film crew found her unfriendly too. She was the only star not to be called by her first name on the set on the Miniver Story — the sequel to Mrs Miniver — she was "Miss Garson" to the end of the film. Beryl Kemp, 33 Hasluck Gardens, New Barnet, Herts EN5 1HS.

Shhh

WONDERFUL news about the mobile-phone-free carriage, except that it should be the other way round: if all mobile users were assigned to one carriage, they could shout as much as they wished. And perhaps anyone wishing to listen to Walkmanised heavy drum beats, as well as all those consuming micro-meals, could join them. (Dr) Marcia Pointon, 21 Clifton Hill, Brighton BN1 3HQ.

Let the chain take the strain

TONY BLAIR and your political correspondent (Blair: the election of mayors, April 10) are both wrong to think that directly-elected mayors are the norm in western Europe. They exist only in parts of Germany, Switzerland and Portugal. The norm is in fact one of indirect election where the political executive (mayor, committee of councillors or a combination of both) is appointed by the council. This is in fact the British system except that here the real political executive, the dominant party group, is forbidden by law to take the reins of power. The separation of elections for the executive (mayor) and legislature (councillors), as Mr Blair seems to suggest, runs all the risks intrinsic to the presidential system: personal populism, and obstructive conflict between the executive and legislature. The Labour Party would do better to recognise and legitimise the control of the executive by the dominant group in the council (just as in our parliamentary system). This would not only respect our traditions but also those of most of the rest of western Europe. Richard Batley, School of Public Policy, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT.

AS the London boroughs know all have mayors, including Lambeth — the home of County Hall, emptied by Thatcher but likely to be used again a few months hence. London, or more accurately the City, has a Lord Mayor. Could it be that an elected top man or woman will be known as London-Super-Mayor? Harold Lockwood, (Former mayor of Lambeth), 128 Gibson's Hill, London SW16 3EY.

The return of the living dead

YOU have unfortunately taken out of context my comments at a meeting on Ethics and Alternatives in Animal Experimentation in Edinburgh (Professor defends 'living dead' tests, April 8). I did not state that research could take place... before the relatives took the decision to terminate their lives' (in fact that decision is most unlikely ever to be left to the relatives). The point is that some people may make an advance directive to leave their bodies for research in order to help others and perhaps reduce the use of animals in research. If such altruistic donations are found to be acceptable and the patient's wishes are to be respected, how is the medical profession to deal with this case? What safeguards and criteria should be in place: would they be similar to those permitting removal of organs, or the use of fetal tissue in research?

Should a National Ethics Committee, such as the Nuffield Council on Bioethics, set up to deal with the dilemmas that developments in health-care technology cause? The number of humans leaving their bodies for research would make little difference to the number of animals needed, or to the number of humans that participate in research trials. Nevertheless, such research may still be a very important way of investigating tragedies like "permanent vegetative state" so that in future doctors will be able to treat these conditions better, as well as help decide which forms of coma are reversible. It may also help provide information for developing alternatives to David B Morton, Department of Biomedical Science and Ethics, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT.

A Country Diary

GLoucestershire: Angling is a popular participatory sport. In all its various forms, from fly fishing on fast-running river water or on still lakes, through coarse fishing on a river or canal bank, to sea angling from beach, boat, or rocks it is alleged that the votes in angling add up to more than the votes of those who attend league football matches as spectators. Although I still have a rigged fibre glass sea rod standing in a corner of the garage I have not been an active angler for many years. The last fish I caught was a quite inedible sea fish that can be caught off the rocks at Penberth Cove in West Penwith. This wrasse was the last of a sequence of them that I had lifted from the sea when I was fishing with the hope of catching the entirely edible pollack or garfish. Instead of which I caught a series of wrasse. It must have been what turned me off angling because I have not been fishing since and that incident is well over 20 years ago. I was reminded of these matters by the growing conflict between the fishing interest and the bird protection interest as the changing habits of the cormorant bring it into conflict with fishermen on inland waters. The first time I saw a cormorant on Bristol docks I was mildly surprised. I was even more surprised by the sight of two of them taking off from the waters of the Gloucestershire Sharpness canal. The cormorant, thought of as a sea bird, typically hanging its wings out to dry on a rocky headland, has been moving inland. It is not unprecedented — the lesser black-backed gull has become a most visible resident of the city roofs around Bristol docks and this example is to be seen through much of Europe. But the slow move of the cormorant to inland waters is a potential threat to the fisherman. Cormorants are large birds; large birds have large appetites, and the adult cormorant can consume two pounds of fish in a day of easy fishing. COLIN LUCKHURST

صكنا من الامل

Diary Matthew Norman

On the eve of his departure for the Melbourne Flower Show, where he will appear in the guise of a "visiting celebrity" Terry Major-Ball is understandably busy when I call...

AM intrigued to note that James Robinson's Wine Course has made it on to the shortlist for the hotly contested TV-show category in the Glenelg Awards...

A POISONOUS attack is made upon my friend Taki-George in Vanity Fair. Christopher Hitchens begins his piece on plagiarism by relating how once he was reading the Spectator on a plane...

SPEAKING of hypocrisy — and eloquent students of today's letters page will notice I raises my Gorgon for yet again — I was discussing the matter with an old friend who dropped in for lunch...

A Noping into show-business is an honourable thing to do. Stage, "Can you drink milk through your nose? Does your dog dance?" asks the advert. If you can sing, dance or perform a novelty act, Live 77 (did you guess it?) can take you there...

NEEDING THE SUPPORT OF FATHERS WHO ARE BANKERS. The IFFP, organisers of the conference (in Westminster on April 30), are probably emboldened, not just because masculinity is now a more fashionable subject but also because...

Money talks with a local accent

Commentary Peter Preston

SMILE please! There is Tony Blair in America, grinning away with the high and the mighty, a world statesperson poised for glory...

In made, since you ask, a doctored photo opportunity (double columns only) in the Spanish national, Socialist leader of future chats with socialist leader of past...

Scrambled priorities. In a rational world, the world with Mr Blair hopes shortly to bestride, he'd be vacationing in Washington and doing serious political business in and around Madrid, Barcelona and Bilbao...

Spain's general election — by far the most important in Europe this year — happened on March 31. It tested democ-

tracy a mere couple of decades old. It pushed Mr Gonzalez (the true lover of economic socialism) from power at last. It switched to conservative rule after a fifth of a century spent recovering from Franco...

Also, nothing doing. Literally nothing. José María Aznar, the modest Major-clone with the weird toothbrush moustache, may have won in March but not by enough...

The first commandment, the hardest pledge of New Labour in office, is Scottish devolution (with a lukewarm Welsh version as second round). Labour frontbenchers challenged about that choice...

Mr Blair should ask Mr Aznar. He would up a score of seats short of a majority when the polls closed. He has been hung out to dry ever since...

The apostle of strong government from Madrid, of tough economic measures after years of feather bedding, of determined privatisation, of resolute toughness with nationalist terrorism, has been turned into a feeble figure of fun...

Meanwhile Jordi Pujol (and his Basque oppo Zabier Aranaluz) are making hay. They command only 21 seats between them, with a couple of Canary Island separatists tossed in to make up the numbers...

Europe habitually divides its regional separatist into tame and tigerish. The tigers are the handful of bombers, and therefore dangerous. The

tame types are the halloo-box travellers, the constitutional roaders. They are, in theory, infinitely to be preferred. But they also carry danger in their bulging briefcases...

A wonderful, lucrative game is afoot: no principles and no ideology necessary

the villager from over the hill is often incomprehensible to the valley the other side. Nationalism (except for the madmen of ETA) is not a burning torch: it is a hat stand to hang demands on...

Catalan nationalism, on this reckoning, is Barcelona's football club, managed by Dutchman and dominated by a Bulgarian mid-field wizard. There isn't the essential insularity of narrow nationalism...

Catalonia is more serious than that. There's a stirring culture and a real pride. Newspapers and magazines and television channels can be Catalan and make a living. But independence? Real independence? Jordi Pujol is not into that...

Easter with Ken, Jack, Harriet and the gang



Bel Littlejohn

SMASHING Easter in the country with truly smashing friends, since you asked (not). No, but seriously, I schlepped down to spend a very happy Easter with Barbara and Ken Follett...

Before I move on to the article proper, let me just say that Barbara and Ken are doing great things with the house. It'll be really nice when they expand it down to the end of the street and round the block immediately following the next election...

Fellow smug Easter bunnies in the Follett nest were the much-maligned Peter Mandelson (give him a break, guys), my old chum Jack Straw plus ace side-guitar, and the smug Harriet Harman...

It was Peter who broke the silence. "As always, Tony's so right," he said. "I mean, it wasn't at all easy for Pomius Filias or Judas Iscariot, was it? Christianity was going through a period of transition...

It was Tony who broke the silence. "As always, Tony's so right," he said. "I mean, it wasn't at all easy for Pomius Filias or Judas Iscariot, was it? Christianity was going through a period of transition...



Make the father figure

The time has come, asserts Ros Coward, for liberals of both sexes to risk the wrath of feminists by joining in a positive debate on the role of the father

FEMINISTS may not agree about much these days. But one subject is guaranteed to revive the old alliance: the importance of fatherhood. Most feminists still think this subject is taboo, and raising it an act of treason...

Ben Campbell, explaining hostility to single mothers in her book Goliath, writes: "To reveal the redundancy of the man is the real crime of the mothers." Sue Sillman, then director of the National Council for One-Parent Families, was even more contemptuous when she replied to the complaint by rewriting theorist Charles Murray that the increase in single motherhood has cast men loose as uncivilised rabble...

There have been real losses for fathers in the contemporary family and to say so does not involve harking back to outdated ideas of the father's role. Fathering has changed fundamentally in the past 30 years. The first change happened in the 60s, with the emergence of the modern egalitarian family emphasising equal partners and the

wellfare of children. But even that model still assumed the father would provide for the family, gaining a certain moral authority and status as a result. So long as he provided for his family he could call himself a good father, however little he involved himself emotionally...

Another psychotherapist, Andrew Samuels, goes even further. An active and physically affectionate father can make many positive contributions. He can bring to a son a feeling of "homosexuality", an ability to relate to other men affectionately and communally, as women often relate. A father's affection for his daughter can also break up an identification with motherhood...

FATHERS suddenly find themselves without any authority at all. They are being asked to play a language to embody what has been positive, and what they want to protect in their relationship with their children. The only place to articulate this is the right-wing, pro-family lobby...

Samuels feels compelled to entitle his paper on this subject "The good-enough father of either sex", understandably reluctant to draw feminist wrath by suggesting that only biological men could play the role. Yet the time has surely passed for this tentativeness, this reluctance to unleash feminist contempt to any discussion of fatherhood has been defensive, and sometimes downright offensive when it slanders into virgin-birth fantasies about the total redundancy of men. And by making it taboo for liberals to evolve a positive discourse a vacuum has been created for right-wing misogynists.

Which healthcare plan offers you more for your money? Legal & General Lifetime Healthcare Plan. From \$10.34 a month and includes PRIVATE MEDICAL INSURANCE. Full cover for all in-patient hospital treatment and cover for some associated services.

David Kelsey

The charming chameleon

DAVID KELSEY, who has made his last exit aged 63, could have been a famous actor if his boredom threshold had stretched beyond a three-week run. Instead he focused (in three-year bursts) as a campaigning director who took over ailing regional theatres and saved them from closure before moving on to the next. More of that later.

Kelsey was a maverick. At times he was inspirational and there are countless actors, a minor Who's Who of theatreland, who worshipped him as a Svengali. He was also a fantasist and a compulsive liar of such charm and conviction that his close friends took most of anything he said with a pinch of salt. At one time or another, he infuriated everyone. But mostly he was forgiven because Kelsey preferred to enlarge or alter the details of events, it was only out of his creative need to fiddle with the plot.

I first met him 20 years ago when he came to the old Castle Theatre in Farnham to direct Sonia Dresdel in his own new play, *Game For Two Or More Players*. It was a dire piece. Like most of his outpourings (he wrote all his life on a manual machine and never cut a word), it was unstructured and self-indulgent with flashes of brilliance obscured in the fog. But Kelsey brought new life into that cosy little Surrey theatre. He walked in the door and had the entire staff running about and worshipping at his feet. He was a very funny man and a great raconteur.

Within this creative mayhem, he conjured up on one of his legendary crashes: a week of mawkish fawning and attempted seduction-by-language that stopped only

when he was told forcefully to get back. But, in the most spurned lovers, Kelsey easily became a close friend. And most of those closest to him went through the same process where his wild romantic fantasies were converted and adapted to the real world from which he often strayed.

He was born in Hull in 1932 and, according to his unpublished memoirs, started out as a call boy at 16 years old. We know for a fact that he acted in weekly rep at Oldham and Cheltenham in the fifties — because his old friend Frank Middlemass would testify on oath. We also know from photographs and reviews that he toured the world with Harold Lang's innovative Voyages Theatre Company; and that he always remembered Lang as his artistic mentor. It was Lang who gave Kelsey the directing bug.

He remained an actor through most of the sixties, with lengthy stints at the Bristol Old Vic and Nottingham Playhouse, working with the likes of Frank Finlay, Stuart Burge and John Schlesinger. "Coco" Kelsey, as they called him then, made the break into directing in 1968 with an appointment as associate at the Glasgow Citizens.

In the early seventies, he saved the Marlborough Theatre in Canterbury from threatened closure. A browse through the old programmes tells its own story: James Fox in *School For Scandal*; Peggy Mount in *When We Are Married*; Fenella Fielding in *The Second Mrs Tanqueray*; Sonia Dresdel as *Arabella* in *The Seagull* — and, intriguingly, Cleo Laine as Hedda Gabler, her first director role. He was resident playwright at Liverpool Playhouse in 1976 and the Northcott, Exeter in 1976. The following year he took over as



The maverick... David Kelsey in *The Seagull* at the Royal Theatre, Northampton, 1961

Peter Naylor

For the public good

PROFESSOR PETER Naylor, who has died at the age of 57, spent most of his career as a professor teaching politics, history and international relations, but his foundation was laid in his practical experience of administration in the Admiralty, later the navy department of the unified Ministry of Defence.

Peter Naylor was educated at the Mercers' School, and took a first-class honours degree in history at Wadham College, Oxford. He served in the Civil Service as an Assistant Principal in 1952. Appointed to the Admiralty, his intellectual ability and administrative talents quickly enabled him to make his mark, notably in the key junior post of Private Secretary to the Secretary of the Admiralty, Sir John Lang.

When the government had decided, in 1962, that the submarine-based Polaris system should be the basis of the UK strategic deterrent, Naylor was selected as a member of the hand-picked staff for the special Polaris executive which was established in the Admiralty. Here he stayed for five exacting years, a period of intense effort devoted to design, construction, procurement, support facilities and training, all programmed to meet an in-service date for the Polaris force of 1969.

Naylor was closely engaged in the creation, monitoring and administration of this complex project, involving a wide range of naval and civilian personnel as well as contractors and other government agencies. There was, in particular, a constant need for close relations with the US

navy, and Naylor's North American contacts, combined with his personal charm, helped to ease the way for full cooperation.

But, as it turned out, his future did not lie in Whitehall administration, in which he had spent 17 years. After leaving the Polaris project and spending two years as a branch head dealing with long-range strategic planning, Naylor accepted the appointment of Professor of Strategic Studies at Lancaster University. He took to the academic life straight away with both style and enthusiasm, remaining happily at Lancaster for eight years, for the last three of which he was head of the Department of Politics and International Relations. In 1977, he returned to the navy service to take up an appointment tailor-made for him — the post of Professor of History and International Affairs at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich. Here he presided with authority over the further development of the academic content of the Royal Naval staff course and established a reputation for teaching well and with generous hospitality, and for his personal kindness to colleagues in difficulty.

On retirement from the Naval College in 1988, he was delighted to accept the part-time post of Provost of Greenham College, where he renewed his links with the Mercers' company, reviving memories of his school years. He was planning the college's quarter-centenary celebrations at the time of his death.

Professor Naylor's academic influence was considerable through his teaching, but, although never prolific, he was also a good writer in the somewhat bleak field of the nuclear deterrent, and of the external role of the Soviet Union during the Cold War. It was, however, the cinema which was his own struggle, and he became increasingly angry about the unnecessary obstacles put in his way, but turned that into a fierce energy and sense of social justice to work with and help other disabled people across the country. Like many other disabled people, David had to do what was really a full-time job working as a "volunteer" without the status usually accorded to leading campaigners who have a paid position in an organisation. But even so his work was known and valued by individual disabled people, national charities, MPs and members of the House of Lords.

Whenever David came across what seemed a



The history man... Peter Naylor in 1947

David Whitton

A fighter who turned anger into action

DAVID WHITTON, who has died of a heart attack aged 44, was one of the most energetic and effective disability campaigners. Because of this it was very easy to overlook or forget David's own multiple disabilities. Apart from raising a great deal of money for individual disabled people to get adapted cars and vans, he was also one of the leading experts in the country on mobility and disabled people, and pushed the British charity, Motability, to offer them to people here. Among other things, David became a leading spokesman of the opportunities afforded by new technologies

to blind and partially sighted people, and was a wizard of the World Wide Web.

David was born in Exmouth and spent some of his childhood in South America, before returning to England. His first job was as a coffee broker in the City — which he loathed; he then became a travelling salesman (during which time he and his sister saved a drowning child from a Glasgow canal), but returned to an interest in woodworking and became a cabinet-maker in Clerkenwell. He eventually gave this up when his eyesight started to fail, because of childhood diabetes and progressive renal failure. David was also a water diver, which he learned from his father who drilled for water in Spain.

His constant enthusiasm will be badly missed, as will his wicked sense of humour; David did not take kindly to the pompous and self-righteous. Nor was his enthusiasm confined to his work. He was an avid opera-goer and had a keen and informed interest in classical music, the ballet and modern dance; he was also a connoisseur of powerful rum. David will be deeply missed by his wife, Alison, his family, friends, and by so many people whose lives he helped to change.

ridiculous situation, he jumped into it with verve and imagination. For instance, when he was having trouble getting his prosthetic leg to work properly, he used the Internet to get hold of information from the US about how to overcome the problem, and lobbied the British manufacturer to incorporate the necessary changes — for himself and others. Similarly, he found out about American adapted vehicles for severely disabled people, and pushed the British charity, Motability, to offer them to people here. Among other things, David became a leading spokesman of the opportunities afforded by new technologies

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Mobilising for disabled people... David Whitton

Birthdays

Jan Aychbourn, playwright, 57; Raymond Barre, economist, former prime minister of France, 72; Bill Byden, theatre director, 54; Montserrat Caballe, opera singer, 63; David Cassidy, singer, 47; Brian Connolly, writer and broadcaster, 50; Pat Cook, jockey, 50; Elspet Gray, actress, 57; Lionel Hampton, vibraphonist and composer, 86; Edward Hyde, jockey, 60; Uwe Kitzinger, former president, Templeton College, Oxford, 56; Hady Kruger, actor, 58; Bryan Magee, philosopher and writer, 66; Ann Miller, actress and singer, 73; Dr Hilary Ingle, educationist, 51; Haald Penrose, test pilot, author and air historian, 92; Carlos Reutemann, grand prix driver, 54; George Robertson, Labour MP, 50; Lady Nicolls, former chairman, National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux, 77; Graham base, cricketer, 52; Dr Wendy Savage, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 61.

Death Notices

FLYCHURCH, Dr. J. de Westbury, West Midlands, suddenly on April 5th aged 81, after a long illness. Buried at St. Andrew's Church, Westbury, Wiltshire, on Wednesday 17th April at 11.00 am. In Memoriam. Friends who wish to contribute to the Flychurche Library Project, please contact: Mrs. J. de Westbury, 10, The Rectory, Westbury, Wiltshire, BA13 3JG.

LEONARD, Mrs. Alice, television producer, suddenly on Tuesday April 9th aged 81, after a long illness. Buried at St. Andrew's Church, Westbury, Wiltshire, on Wednesday 17th April at 11.00 am. In Memoriam. Friends who wish to contribute to the Flychurche Library Project, please contact: Mrs. J. de Westbury, 10, The Rectory, Westbury, Wiltshire, BA13 3JG.

In Memoriam

Obituary, Mrs. M. P. Macdonald, remembered with affection. Write your remembrance to: 1171 13 2687 Fax 0171 421 4212

Jackdaw



mass and are mostly useless embellishments in space. The ideal astronaut would probably therefore be legless as well as small.

Val Dobson of Preston stands up for sparrows in a letter to *New Scientist*.

Mad solutions

THE NATIONAL Rifle Association today announced that it has offered to send its entire 3.3 million membership over to England to assist with its massive cow-culling effort. NRA executive Wayne LaPierre said that if Britain did not have such stringent gun-control laws, "they'd have been able to nip this problem at the start". He called on Congress to immediately repeal the ban on some types of assault rifle, including the .50-calibre Elsie Eliminator, so the membership can "do the job right".

LUIS ALFONSO Maquilon Amaya, a head trafficker for the Cali cocaine cartel, is reportedly trying to buy up all 4.7 million mad British cows on the black market.

According to sources here, the plan is to stuff the cows full of cocaine and ship them to the United States. "Normally we have big problems with customs when the bags break inside and the animals make a big scene," a source said. "But a coca loco isn't bothered too much by even a couple of kilos in its bloodstream."

ENTERTAINER Michael Jackson and Saudi Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal announced today that they will create a theme-park home for all British cows afflicted with mad-cow disease. Stroking a cow's forehead as he spoke at the press conference in a barely audible whisper, the singer would not provide details of the amusement park or venture to explain why people would pay to be with millions of mad cows other than to say it would be "really, really wonderful".

CHINA announced today that it plans to conduct "amphibious mad-cow exercises" in the Taiwan Strait. Secretary of State Warren Christopher

warned China's leadership that the US viewed the developments "seriously".

A GROUP of actors and actresses has called on Prime Minister John Major to "stop the slaughter" of British mad cows and "do something positive instead, like vaccinate them or whatever".

"We feel the government hasn't done enough," said Liam Neeson. Neeson said he has felt sympathetic toward British cows ever since the filming of the movie *Rob Roy*, in which he escaped from soldiers by hiding inside the carcass of a large, decomposing steer. "The group, Creativity United to Denounce Slaughter (CUDS), plans to distribute lapel buttons with ribbons. Christopher Buckley goes mad in the *Shouts and Murmurs* section of the *New Yorker*."

Tanorexics

KAREN PUTS down the article about the dangers of sunbathing. She's read it several times and the warnings

are spinning around in her head. On the verge of tears, she hesitates next to the switch for the sunbed. Then she looks at the mini-dress she's planning to wear this evening. It's no good, she has to be brown. As if in a trance, she strips and clambers on to the bed. "Just one more go won't hurt," she thinks.

"I'll definitely stop tomorrow." But that's what she says every day.

Karen is no ordinary sunbed user: she's one of an increasing number of women suffering from "tanorexia", a compulsion to be suntanned, whatever the time of year, whatever the cost. The warning signs are the amount of time and the mental energy devoted to the tanning obsession. Most tanorexics use a sunbed at least three times a week, often daily, spending much of the time away from the sunbed obsessing over the brownness of their skin and planning their next tanning fix.

Karen, now 25, has finally kicked her tanning habit after months of psychotherapy. But the memory of her compulsion

is still vivid in her mind. "I used to panic when I saw my tan had faded," she says. "Even going for a day or half a day without using the sunbed was a strain — it was like having withdrawal symptoms. I was sure everybody could tell when I hadn't been using it. It was a really weird feeling. I just felt drawn to it all the time."

Cosmopolitan investigates the latest addiction, tanorexia.

Lippy folk

"TEANK GOODNESS I found you! I thought I was alone, a freak in a world of people without need of balm. Here is my story: My name is Andrew A and Lip Balm has always been one of my best friends.

It's been there with me through almost everything. Unfortunately, it's never there when I really need it. Do I really need it? Right now, there are three different kinds of lip balm right here on my computer table. Let me tell you how they came to be here. Last weekend, at 12.30 in the morning, I ran out of lip balm. I cannot be without it, so I got in my car and drove to 7-11 to buy some more. All they had was Chapstick Petroleum Jelly. I purchased it and opened it in the car. I put it on, but quickly became unhappy with the way it seemed to disappear. I proceeded to drive to a Mobil station where I bought some Carmex. It cost a lot, but I needed it. Again, I wasted no time in opening it and putting it on. For the moment, I was

satisfied. I felt like I was in good shape until I saw some Chapstick Ultra 8730 in the store the next day. I never seen it before, so I bought it. I like it. If I don't use it with me when I sleep, I break out. I get angry and I can't concentrate, because I got it at work and I sorted to using some olive oil. I need help. I know I've got problems. A friend of mine, Martina, has shared a disorder with me as well. She always has at least five flavors with her.

I hope that my story'll let others know that the compulsion is not a rare thing. I support them and will here. Final independent page the Internet (<http://users.com/LipBalmA/>).

Jackdaw wants your jaw, E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; ckdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London, EC1R 3ER.

Dan Glaister

... goes back to ... begins for a pro...

BS spu ... st sui...

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IF YOU AR ... WITH OR ... WE RECON ... YOU GET YO ... EXAMI...

صلى الله عليه وسلم

Schrempp goes back to basics, page 12 Plus: Slogans for a product-plugging Pope

Tomorrow: The oddball investments racket

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

UBS spurns first suitor

UNION Bank of Switzerland last night dropped a broad hint that it might consider a mega-takeover as its board voted unanimously to throw out a merger approach from banking rival Credit Suisse.

UBS has long nurtured ambitions to build up its presence in the US and a deal with transatlantic benefits would be high on any agenda that the group may now have.

City sceptics, however, claimed yesterday that UBS might have been trying simply to emphasise — for the benefit of its investors — that it was exploring all possible avenues in an attempt to enhance shareholder value.



Deposited... Demonstrator is ousted from the annual meeting

Extra pressure on BET as Rentokil raises bid

RENTOKIL, the rat-catching and business services group, yesterday stepped up the pressure on rival BET, increasing its cash-and-shares offer for the company from £1.9 billion to £2.1 billion, and accusing BET of treating its shareholders "like fools".

shareholders should change the management — call in Rentokil. However, BET immediately called on investors to reject the higher offer, insisting that Rentokil was "running out of steam", and accused it of trying to pay BET shareholders with their own money.

the closure of BET's head office in Piccadilly, London, and in its divisional management. "We are talking about tens or hundreds rather than thousands," he added.

Protesters bare message for Lloyds TSB

DISGRUNTLED shareholders, including nine strikers, disrupted Lloyds TSB's annual meeting yesterday in a protest against the bank's refusal to cancel Third World debt.

year with the merger of Lloyds and the TSB. About 30 shareholders staged the protest. The strikers had various slogans painted on their bodies including "Expose the Naked Truth" and "This is my ethical streak — what is yours?"

by Lloyds and Midland Bank (Lamb), whose spokesperson, Joe Bird, one of the strikers, said the bank had made a £50 million profit from Third World debt in 1995.

Advertisement for Cellnet mobile phones. Text: "IF YOU ARE STILL WITH ORANGE WE RECOMMEND YOU GET YOUR BILL EXAMINED." Includes a comparison table showing 15 minutes for £17.63 on Orange vs 32 minutes for £17.50 on Cellnet. Includes the Cellnet logo and slogan "THE NET THAT SETS YOU FREE."

Big Mac essays lamb as it plans passage to India

COMBINE the centuries-old cultural mysteries of India with the sinister Ronald McDonald and you end up with the quarter-pound burger made of 100 per cent pure, ground... lamb.

film and distant member of the ox family. The branches will be in New Delhi and Bombay, two of the biggest cities in India, where the Hindu faithful regard the cow as a sacred beast. The role of beef in the Mc-menu, a McDonald's spokesman explained, would be taken by lamb, which is cheerfully tucked into by followers of most of the great religions.

Not that the Mc-men are giving up on India's large vegetarian population, for whom there will be vegetable burgers and vegetable nuggets. Dishes are to be spiced up as only the Indians know how, and fish dishes will be on offer.

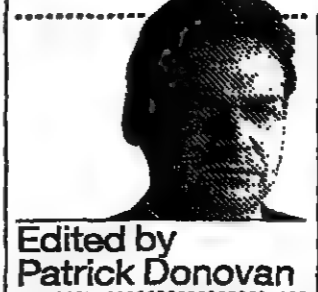
Lonrho offshoot strikes £192m gold deal

ASHANTI Goldfields, the Ghanaian gold mining group part-owned by Lonrho, yesterday announced an agreed £192 million bid for Australian miner Golden Shamrock.

The purchase of Golden Shamrock, reportedly under the noses of several Australian bidders, is the latest in a string of deals by Ashanti.

have recommended that the EU block the planned merger by Lonrho and Gencor because the deal, forming the world's biggest platinum producer, would create two big players — the other being Anglo-American — unlikely to compete effectively with each other.

Swiss bankers lose their cool



Edited by Patrick Donovan

THE Union Bank of Switzerland may have rejected the idea of a merger with Credit Suisse. But the subtext of last night's statement makes it clear that UBS that is very much in the market for a takeover, even though the bank has obviously fallen out fairly badly with its putative partner.

any nearer creating the Thatcherite dream of building a share-owning democracy. There were 8.5 million small shareholders in the run-up to sale of the generating companies in March last year. At the end of the year, the figure was virtually unchanged, according to latest research from Prudshare.

Anyone's BET

FAR from the knock-out blow most were expecting, Rentokil's renewed bid for BET sounded more like a damp squib.

There were further signs that the market is losing its enthusiasm for Rentokil shares as the bidder only managed to get its offer underwritten at a 7 per cent discount. For the original bid, the discount was three percentage points higher.

Power failure

SIR John Bourn, head of the National Audit Office, may be right in yesterday opining that the Government squeezed the maximum proceeds from the £3.6 billion flotation of National Power and PowerGen.

First, he tells Parliament that last year's sale was "notably successful" in widening and deepening share ownership.

Shepherd urged to rescue TECs from legal morass

PRESSURE was mounting on Education and Employment Secretary Gillian Shepherd last night to safeguard the status of Training and Enterprise Councils as it emerged that a court battle could endanger ministerial plans to streamline the delivery of advice and services to business in the regions.

For all that, there is a grudging admiration at the refusal by Rentokil chief executive Clive Thornton to pay over the top. The fight will proceed as these individual tables of the 20 institutions which hold more than 50 per cent of BET shares. With two weeks to go before the offer expires, the outcome is still anybody's guess.

Tourist Rates - Bank Sells

Table with 4 columns: Country, Bank, Rate, and another column. Includes entries for Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, and USA.

Mark Lose after Dub

Bristol & West acts to bar the takeover speculators



After the fall... Juergen Schrempf will enforce Daimler's new strategy

Anglo-Saxon ethos for Daimler

Outlook/ Ian Traynor in Stuttgart on a business attempting recovery from the worst losses in German corporate history

IT HAS been, to borrow a term from the House of Windsor, an annus horribilis for Daimler-Benz, flagship of German industry. Almost DM6 billion (£2.8 billion) losses last year, the worst in German corporate history, the shedding of the Dutch aircraft-builder Fokker, the break-up of the AEG industrial group, no dividend payout for the first time in 45 years, and the unceremonious dismissal of Edzard Reuter, the former chairman widely viewed in the fat years as Mr Corporate Germany.

His departure signalled the end of the grand Reuter vision, now seen as illusory, of Daimler as an expanding "integrated technology business". Under the ruthless stewardship of his successor, Juergen Schrempf, just under a year in the job, the new model Daimler is to go back to its roots, "making anything that moves — trains, planes, cars, and trucks". And to turn a profit.

At Daimler-Benz's nerve centre in Stuttgart yesterday, Mr Schrempf outlined a strategy that is to see Daimler blaze a trail away from the traditional German corporate model and take on key features of the Anglo-Saxon business ethos. Already the business has abandoned German recruiting practices and shifted to the American system. At next month's AGM

scheme comes good. It will be 1997 at best before the loss-making Daimler-Benz arm returns to the black and Mr Schrempf is keen to be shot of at least parts of the Dornier aerospace subsidiary.

Manfred Genz, Daimler's finance director, said: "There has to be a solution this year." And that solution must cost less than a billion marks.

Daimler owns 58 per cent of Dornier, but one of the heirs to what was a family firm, Martine Dornier-Tiefenthaier, is exercising veto rights to prevent a Daimler sell-off and has emerged as one of Mr Schrempf's most vocal critics. As a result, Mr Schrempf has ordered her removal from the Daimler supervisory board.

All of which could make for a boisterous AGM. In addition to endorsing Mrs Dornier-Tiefenthaier's removal, the meeting could hear whingeing about the lack of a dividend for the first time in living memory, and is certain to hear grumbling about the move towards executive share options at a time of jobs cuts, belt-tightening, and minimal pay rises.

Then there is the small matter of the Stuttgart public prosecutor's investigating Mr Schrempf, Mr Reuter, and others on allegations that they wilfully misled shareholders last year by failing to disclose the scale of the record losses confronting Daimler-Benz. Mr Schrempf yesterday dismissed the allegations and promised "full co-operation" with the Stuttgart inquiry.

And while he is keen to talk

Daimler-Benz	
1995	
Sales	14,500,000,000 DM
Operating profit	1,200,000,000 DM
Share price (per 50 DM share)	110.00 DM
Group operating assets	1,400,000,000 DM
Dividend	1.00 DM
1994	
Sales	13,332,000,000 DM
Operating profit	1,111,000,000 DM
Dividend	1.00 DM
1993	
Sales	15,037,000,000 DM
Operating profit	2,000,000,000 DM
Dividend	1.00 DM
1992	
Sales	11,704,000,000 DM
Operating profit	200,000,000 DM

Teresa Hunter

BRISTOL & West members yesterday barred its doors to new investors fuelling speculation that it is poised to announce its takeover.

The move mirrors that made by the Alliance & Leicester, which stopped opening new accounts around the weekend before confirming plans to abandon building society status and float on the stock market.

The Bristol & West, Britain's ninth largest society, is seen as the next most likely to convert to a public limited company, probably via a takeover. Any change of its status would trigger bonus payments of around £1,000 to members.

A Bristol & West spokesman yesterday said that the

society had stopped admitting new members because branches had been badly disrupted over the past couple of days by a flood of investors opening qualifying accounts in attempts to cash in on any future gateway of the society's assets.

The society said that yesterday's measure was intended to ensure that the savings institution remained stable — again echoing statements from the Alliance & Leicester when it stopped taking new money.

The spokesman said: "It became apparent that the level of new account openings was having an adverse effect on our ability to provide a high level of service to our existing customers."

Despite earlier this year increasing the minimum sums needed to open a qualifying share account to £2,500, the society had been inundated

with people trying to become members.

None of the mortgage lenders publicly committed to remaining mutual building societies — such as Bradford & Bingley, Nationwide and Yorkshire — has stopped opening accounts even though they have each been subject to similar bouts of takeover speculation.

The B&W has openly admitted that it has been considering a number of options, including abandoning mutual status and becoming a bank.

It has further confirmed that talks have taken place with other organisations about a possible takeover.

The society yesterday refused to comment on whether its strategic review has been completed and a decision to agree to a takeover taken.

The City was yesterday awash with rumours that the

society was on the verge of announcing a takeover by a leading financial services group. The Bank of Ireland, Allied Irish Banks, financial services and tobacco firm B&P and the Prudential insurance outfit have each expressed interest in acquiring a society.

With the Halifax, Leeds, Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester, Cheltenham & Gloucester and Northern Rock out of the picture, quality medium-sized societies are becoming rare. B&W's profits rose 8 per cent to £77.1 million last year before a £33.9 million write off following the sale of its estate agency chain.

The Bristol & West denied that yesterday's move was a precursor to a takeover announcement. "People will always read into it what they want to. It is illustrative of the environment that we are in," its spokesman said.

N&P members accept Abbey offer

Martyn Halseall, Northern Industrial Correspondent

NATIONAL & Provincial Building Society members yesterday voted overwhelmingly for a £1.35 billion merger with the Abbey National, Britain's fifth-largest bank.

The merger is still subject to approval by the Building Societies Commission in June but is likely to be completed by the end of the summer.

The vote, at a special general meeting in Manchester, will end the 150-year-old N&P's building society status and create a north-

south alliance. The new group will be the second-largest mortgage lender, with 15 million customers served by 1,000 branches and 23,000 staff.

Abbey's assets will increase by £13 billion to £107 billion.

Branches are expected to be reduced to about 880 but Abbey National has promised there will be no compulsory redundancies in the retail network, and has forecast new jobs in Bradford, where N&P has its headquarters and employs about 1,400 people.

The meeting, open to the N&P's 1.4 million voting members, attracted 490,

More than two hours of frequently hostile questions covered staff job security, the value of the transfer deal and directors' future salaries.

Michael Hardern, founder of the anti-merger group Members for Conversion, told the board: "I think you are being robbed... I would be much happier with a £2 billion price."

He said the much-anticipated March year-end revival could add further profits and value to the N&P. "In a year's time we may well find we have sold out for a song."

The Labour peer Lord Monkswell said merger

would introduce priorities "in complete contradiction to the directors of a building society".

N&P chairman Lord Shuttleworth said across the board the "only realistic option" in the short term and the best option, in the interests of customers, members and employees.

In 1995 the N&P approached over 40 organisations, and examined the picture, quality medium-sized societies are becoming rare. B&W's profits rose 8 per cent to £77.1 million last year before a £33.9 million write off following the sale of its estate agency chain.

The Bristol & West denied that yesterday's move was a precursor to a takeover announcement. "People will always read into it what they want to. It is illustrative of the environment that we are in," its spokesman said.

News in brief

Amec profits fall after Kvaerner bid

AMEC, the construction group, signalled its determination yesterday to put last year's failed hostile bid from the Norwegian shipping group Kvaerner in the past, as it unveiled a 30.5 per cent decline in 1995 pre-tax profits.

The new chief executive, Peter Mason, said that if the £4.1 million bid defence costs were stripped out, the profits would have equaled the 1994 figure of £20 million.

Mr Mason, who has already embarked on a strategic overhaul of the company, added that the outlook for 1996 was encouraging and he expected a "significant improvement" in profits this year.

The review, due to be finished by September, has already led to two businesses worth £12.5 million being put up for sale, plus annual savings of £5 million. — *Pauline Springett*

Fed delays on Fleet

THE Federal Reserve has delayed a vote on Fleet Financial Group's proposed takeover of NatWest's American subsidiary for \$3 billion (£2 billion), pending a request for more information on branch closures in poor areas. The Fed, which was to have voted on Monday, has yet to set a new date.

The postponement follows complaints from Inner City Press, an organisation in New York's Bronx, over Fleet's refusal to disclose its plans for branch closures. Inner City alleged that when Fleet acquired Shawmut National Corp it harmed poor neighbourhoods in Albany, New York State, with closures it did not disclose beforehand.

By delaying a vote, the Fed is signalling its concern about bank compliance with regulations governing service to low-income and minority groups. Fleet said it was committed to less well-off neighbourhoods, asking that prior disclosure of branch closures was not normal procedure. Fleet expects Fed approval of the NatWest acquisition by May. — *Mark Tran in New York*

Vodafone quits manufacture

VODAFONE is pulling out of mobile phone equipment manufacturing to concentrate on its network operations and services. It has sold its 50 per cent stake in Orbital Mobile Communications to Ericsson, the Swedish telecom group which owns the rest of the Orbital shares.

Orbital makes GSM digital phones and infrastructure equipment for cellular phone networks. It employs 750 people at its manufacturing plant at Carlisle-in-Lindrick, Nottinghamshire, and 350 at its headquarters and design operation in Basingstoke. Jan Edhall, managing director of Ericsson's cellular operations, said no jobs would be lost as a result of the deal.

Orbital, which last year earned pre-tax profits of £5.8 million on sales of more than £100 million, was set up by Vodafone and Plessey in 1988, and later became a wholly owned Vodafone subsidiary. In 1991, Vodafone sold half of the company to Ericsson for £45 million. — *Nicholas Baxendale*

State sell-offs likely to face stiffer scrutiny

Chris Barrie

THE Government's privatisation programme faces much tougher scrutiny by investors following the fiasco over the £3.6 billion flotation of the state's 40 per cent stake in National Power and PowerGen in March last year, as official public spending watchdog warned yesterday.

As the Government finalises its preparations for Monday's publication of the Railtrack pathfinder prospectus, the National Audit Office revealed that 91 per cent of institutional investors in the UK and the US felt their experience of the electricity generators' sale had had "a negative effect on the likelihood of their participating in a future privatisation".

The results, gleaned from a survey of 300 UK and overseas institutions, come as a blow to ministers as they prepare for the Railtrack sell-off and July's privatisation of the nuclear power industry.

Investors were furious last year when electricity shares divided on the announcement by the regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild, of a fresh and unexpected scrutiny of profits in the regional electricity companies.

Professor Littlechild's announcement, made the day

Akbar reprieved

ALI AKBAR, the former BCCI bank treasurer set to be extradited to the United States next Tuesday, has had an 11th-hour reprieve after an oversight by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard. Mr Justice Ognall, sitting in the High Court, adjourned an application for judicial review following an undertaking by Mr Howard that he would extradite Mr Akbar pending the court proceedings.

Applying for judicial review of the decision to extradite him, John Hardy, representing Mr Akbar, said that France — to which Mr Akbar had fled in 1993 — had not given consent. Mr Justice Ognall, adjourning the hearing to May 16, said the French government should be invited to be represented.

New House of Fraser chief

THE troubled House of Fraser retail group has appointed John Coleman, former managing director of Texas Homecare, as its new chief executive. Mr Coleman replaces Andrew Jennings, who was ousted last month.

House of Fraser has issued five profit warnings since flotation by the Harrods group in 1994, and the exit of Mr Jennings intensified takeover speculation. — *Pauline Springett*

Nurdin profits up

CASH and Carry group Nurdin & Peacock yesterday unveiled a near 30 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for 1995 at £21.45 million and pledged to expand despite difficult trading conditions. The company has been the subject of takeover speculation but chief executive David Strum said it was not in talks with either of the hot tips — Booker or SHV.

Instead, Nurdin & Peacock announced the £400,000 acquisition of Thompson Wholesale Foods. — *Pauline Springett*

Foul play as Barings Bankrupts fail to net win against City police

Sam Ackmann

TWO of the City's most venerable institutions — its police force and Barings bank — clashed on the football field yesterday, but this, apparently, was a fixture that failed to live up to the finest traditions of British sportsmanship. In what could have been a scene from Blue Murder at St Trillick's, the very real prospect of violence between the two sides, along with foul language and accusations of bias against the umpire, forced the abandonment of the game.

As the dust settled, different accounts emerged from sources on each side: one at Barings suggested this was a "friendly" match that had run a little short of time.

The company, recovering from the reckless gambles of Nick Leeson, was not anxious to admit to any more rogue players. But talk close to the police team suggested friendship was the last thing on the protagonists' minds.

The game of shame took place at lunchtime in Paternoster Square, the cement eyecore immediately north of St Paul's Cathedral.

Its outcome would confirm the worst fears of the Prince of Wales, a fervent advocate of human-scale redevelopment of the area, concerning the brutalising effects of modern architecture.

Seven men and women from the City force faced a mixed team from Barings Securities, nicknamed the Barings Bankrupts in a witty reference to the bank's near-£1 billion collapse in early 1995.

With the constabulary in the lead, the Bankrupts made voluble accusations of bias against the referee. Soon the cathedral precincts were ringing to the language of the dealing room and the police cautions. With the bad atmosphere escalating rapidly towards punch-up levels, the half-hour game was abandoned.

No doubt Barings' new Dutch owners will brush off the incident as another example of British eccentricity.

Red Rose Economics/ Seumas Milne on training

Volunteers wanted for revolution

WHATEVER else is at the heart of New Labour economics, training ought to occupy a very large part of it. As the party has progressively ditched Keynesian demand management, its place was supposed to have been taken by Gordon Brown's "supply-side" idea that the only way through massive investment in training, infrastructure and technology could Britain compete in a global economy.

The need for a skills revolution to attract mobile capital and equip workers for continuing economic change has if anything become more central to Labour policy since Tony Blair took over. Party documents hammer away at the urgency of the task at hand, with Britain ranked 40th out of 48 countries in its "motivation to retrain" and seven million workers having no qualifications.

Since Labour's plans for in-work training were published last month, however, confirming its abandonment of a com-

pulsory training levy, backsliding has begun.

There are two main building blocks in the plans. On one side are the education or jobs-plus-training packages for under-25s on the dole for more than six months — funded from the privatised utility windfall tax.

Under these plans, those who refused a place would be given a smart card worth £150 to buy training courses if they chipped in £25.

The rest of the workforce would get tax relief on their own contributions, and the package would be funded by reallocating Training and Enterprise Council funds.

Two further elements of Labour's in-work "skills revolution" are Gordon Brown's electronic University for Industry and a £150 million extension of the existing TEC-monitored Investors in People training standard scheme to small and medium-size firms, backed up with subsidies and public sector purchasing.

Throughout the internal jockeying, Tony Blair made clear he was not prepared to carry on with the compulsory training levy Labour championed at the 1992 election.

His supporters point out that the levy system of the last Labour government excluded small firms, where employment growth is now concentrated.

But union leaders who were told the overriding reason for the veto was that Labour could not be seen adding to "burdens on business".

The CBI is quietly cock-a-hoop about the party's new voluntarist stance. Its director-general, Adair Turner, said: "Labour's shift away from the failed solutions of

سكنا من الامل

Racing

Mark loses esteem after Dubai gallop

RIGHT horses were added to the list of entries for the Vodafone Derby at a cost of \$8,500 at yesterday's supplementary stage. They include current second favourite Mark Of Esteem, but the Godolphin-owned colt eased in the betting after a lukewarm response to the crucial trial gallops held yesterday in Dubai.

Bill's eased Mark Of Esteem to 14-1 from 12-1 for the Derby and to 9-1 from 7-1 for the 2,000 Guineas. Almahrih is now 6-4 on Guineas favourite, from even.

In all, the Godolphin team, which won three British Classics last year with Lamarrta, Classic Cliche and Moombah, tested a total of 19 horses yesterday. The working party included Lamarrta's half-brother Kamarrta, Pricket, Mick's Love, Halcon and Russian Revival.



Gale force... Gales Cavalier and Mark Dwyer are led in after their defeat of Viking Flagship at Cheltenham yesterday

Hoed banned for a year

ROGER HOAD, the Sussex-based trainer, had his licence withdrawn for just over a year yesterday for misleading Jockey Club officials over a positive test returned by a stable runner.

for a breach of the Rules of Racing concerning his employment of stable staff. But a charge of misconduct relating to an incident involving fellow trainer Tom McGovern was dismissed.

Having worked well with what is considered to be the cream of Henry Cecil's three-year-old colts, Clever Cliche (3.30) will be expected to oblige first time out at Nottingham today.

Brighton

Table of racing results for Brighton, including race numbers, names of horses, and winners.

Nottingham

Table of racing results for Nottingham, including race numbers, names of horses, and winners.

Beverley card with guide to the form

Table providing a card with guide to the form for Beverley, listing race details and horse names.

Results

Table of racing results for Cheltenham, including race numbers, names of horses, and winners.

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Sport in brief

Friends differ over alleged Tyson assault

A FRIEND of the woman who claims Mike Tyson sexually assaulted her said yesterday that she did not believe the encounter in a Chicago nightclub had happened. Two other friends, however, backed the accuser's account.

Sampras ends service charge

PETE SAMPRAS fought off an aggressive challenge from Australia's Patrick Rafter to reach the quarter-finals of the Hong Kong Open. Michael Chang, seeded to meet Sampras in the final, had a few anxious moments before reaching the last eight with a 7-5, 6-3 win over Hendrik Dreekmann of Germany.

Record with driving ambition

A RECORD dozen nations will be contesting the Harrod's Driving Grand Prix, the centrepiece of the Royal Windsor Horse Show on May 8-12, when Britain's George Dowman, nine times a previous winner, will attempt another victory in the horse teams section.

Snooker aims to close ranks

WORLD-RANKING events will be restricted to 96 players from the 1997-98 season, the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association has decided. The move by the game's governing body will dispense with six or seven qualifying rounds for each of the circuit's 10 ranking events at Blackpool each summer.

Knee surgery delays Briers

NIGEL BRIERS, the Leicestershire opener, could miss the first two months of the cricket season after undergoing knee surgery. Briers, who stepped down as captain last year, aggravated a long-standing knee problem during the club's tour to South Africa.

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Advertisement for RAGELINE featuring phone numbers and betting information for Brighton and Nottingham.

GOLF: US MASTERS, FIRST DAY

David Davies finds a Crewe Cowboy easing into his stride among the Golden Bears and Great White Sharks at Augusta

Gilford leads the challenge

DAVID GILFORD, who even in these days of Golden Bears and Great White Sharks dares to enter the Augusta National golf club without a nickname, began his 1996 US Masters yesterday with a solid and satisfying 69.

If he keeps this up the 35-year-old Midland dairy farmer will soon be known as the Crewe Cowboy. He had an eagle and a four-putt in his three-under-par round, to stand four shots behind the early leader Phil Mickelson and two behind the former PGA champion Bob Tway.

Gilford, who had earlier greeted the applause for his eagle with a flick of the hand so brief that to blink would have been to miss it, stood and watched impassively, before hitting his second putt three feet past. Now he was faced with a real trickler, a putt that if only a fraction too hard would send him back whence he came. He batted it and missed.

It was a measure of how well Gilford controls his emotions that he hit a drive and nine-iron to four feet at the 17th, holding the putt to get back to three under. Earlier he had played with that quiet authority that stamps his game. He birdied the long 2nd with two putts, hit a seven-iron second to three feet at the 3rd and then

counteracted each other. He was similarly reluctant to criticise the Masters authorities for either the speed of the greens or the pin position at the 10th. "I like playing here," he said, "and I like quick greens. But you have got to be precise because the punishment at Augusta for a so-so shot is severe."

He could have mentioned his putt on the 15th green which, from fully 60 feet, pulled up four feet away. Then it started to move again, travelling another eight feet, and a probable birdie became an actual par.

Augusta National: Card of the course. Hole Yds Par Hole Yds Par. 1 400 4 10 485 4. 2 380 4 11 485 4. 3 380 4 12 485 3. 4 305 3 13 485 5. 5 435 4 14 405 4. 6 180 3 15 360 3. 7 390 4 16 170 3. 8 585 5 17 405 4. 9 435 4 18 405 4. Out 3485 36 In 3485 36. 6,925yds, Par 72.



Fairway to go... Gilford on the 2nd tee. STEPHEN MUNDAY

Hi-tech hardware gives old masters fresh drive

Helen Smyth sees a traditional start to the first major

HARRY C Valden III lives and works in Augusta, so he knew better than to expect any great fanfare on the occasion of his 50th Masters this year. He was not sent a gold patron's badge and there was no invitation to sit on the sunny and airy mint julep with Jackson Stephens, the chairman of Augusta National. But Valden came just the same, as he has every year since he was six.

On a bright, chilly morning yesterday he exchanged greetings with the various members of the Harrison family in charge of matters on the first tee, making sure there are plenty of tees, ball markers, pencils and pin-position sheets in place. Phil, the official starter, in the job for 49 years, hands out the scorecards and announces the players - briefly. "Ted Tryba now driving. Fore, please."

The Harisons have run the tee since 1947, Valden said. "They don't make a lot of changes here. The Harisons are from Hurst in Berkshire originally, came across in 1708 - their cousin Lovelace was one of the first governors of the colony of New York and his father was rector of Winchester Cathedral. They found the sunny south very alluring and once they got here they didn't go back to New York."

Hockey

Olympic stopgap as Britain play on half-finished pitch

GREAT BRITAIN and the other five men's teams in the pre-Olympic tournament reluctantly agreed to play the first matches of the round-robin tournament on Clark University's warm-up pitch here today.

This pitch should have been completed weeks ago but work has been delayed by heavy rain and high winds. There have also been problems with the main Olympic hockey pitch at the splendid Morris Brown University stadium.

Rugby Union

Cup profile: The men in black have suddenly become everyone's favourites to do the Welsh double, writes David Plummer

Neath cross line to live life in the fast lane

LESS than a month ago Neath were 20-1 long shots to win the league and cup double and their squad considered betting £10 each to fund a summer tour.



Clear run... the Neath captain and Wales lock Gareth Llewellyn, centre, puts his better foot forward in training this week. PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MORGAN

Unusually they do not have a goal-kicking full-back or outside-half. Their two scrum-halves Patrick Horgan and Chris Bridges take the responsibility though it rarely amounts to anything more than converting tries.

They will next season have to find two second-rowers to replace the Llewellyn brothers, who are joining London clubs, while the Wales centre Leigh Davies, in his first full season at The Gnome, is a target for both League and Union English clubs.

Neath captain Gareth Llewellyn said: "What we set out to do from the outset was to play fast, open rugby involving all 15 players. There was no doubt that the First Division game had become dull and we wanted to put some colour into it."

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Ill health forces Christie to quit as SA coach

KITCH CHRISTIE has resigned as coach of South Africa for health reasons. Christie, who was in hospital last week with pneumonia, is replaced by Andre Maritz.

Football Union said that Christie, who has steered his side to 14 consecutive Test victories as well as last year's World Cup triumph, would remain as national director of coaching.

Christie replaced Ian McIntosh as coach in August 1994, and in two months prepared the team for a successful home Test series against Argentina.

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Tennis

Tough experience for Croats

GORAN IVANISEVIC and his Croatian team-mates must beat Australia, winners of the Davis Cup 25 times, if they are to regain a place in the World Group.

The eight matches will be staged over the weekend of September 20-22 and the winners will join the United States, Czech Republic, Sweden, India, France, Germany, South Africa and Italy in next year's World Group.

Results

SOCCER: BRITAIN PRINT CAPITAL LEAGUE: Reading 1, Southend 0. FRIENDLY INTERNATIONAL: Croatia 4, Hungary 1. PORTUGUESE CUP: Semi-finals Porto 1 Sporting 1, Benfica 2, Uniao Leiria 0.

Rugby Union

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP (Paris): Third place: CSKA Moscow 14, Real Madrid 7. NBA: Boston 108, Washington 122; Charlotte 95, Miami 116; Detroit 82, Philadelphia 76; Orlando 116, Cleveland 104; Minnesota 80, LA Lakers 111; Utah 103, Phoenix 78; San Antonio 70, Vancouver 82; Seattle 108, Sacramento 99.

Hockey

ICE HOCKEY: INTERNATIONAL: Austria 4, Argentina 1. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Switzerland 6, Japan 1. IIHF: Belarus 5, Canada 2; Detroit 5, Winnipeg 2; Florida 1, Tampa Bay 2; Washington 1, Philadelphia 3; NY Rangers 1, New Jersey 1; Philadelphia 3, NY Rangers 1; Colorado 2, Anaheim 3; Edmonton 2, Dallas 4; Los Angeles 8, San Jose 2.

Rugby League

CLUB MATCHES: Pontypool v Bridgend (7:1). STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Warrington v Halifax, Second Division: Barrow v South Wales.

RUGBY LEAGUE CUP FINAL WEMBLEY STADIUM Saturday 27th April. TICKETMASTER BOOK TICKETS NOW ON 0171-344 4444

BASEBALL: AMERICAN LEAGUE: Detroit 7, Seattle 9; Baltimore 1, Cleveland 2; Toronto 1, California 2; Pittsburgh 1, Boston 1. NATIONAL LEAGUE: St Louis 2, Atlanta 1; Houston 5, San Francisco 11; Colorado 1, Toronto 3; Philadelphia 6, Philadelphia 3; California 3, New York 7; LA 8, Seattle 2; San Diego 2, Florida 0.

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سکتا من الامل

صوتنا من الامم



Horse guards parade... all part of the pageantry that traditionally welcomes the visitor to Millwall, complete with mounted policemen in full riot gear

Running the gauntlet at The Den

Soccer violence has not gone away. It is still very much alive, yet hooligans and policemen are finding that it does not make news any more. **John Duncan** came to this realisation the hard way after watching Millwall entertain Birmingham City this week

A DOZEN policemen in riot gear, complete with visors, were charging down the narrow path to South Bermondsey railway station. "Get out of our bloody way," said one. Bang, a truncheon came down. "Run," said another. It was sensible advice.

In fact the victims of violence in Birmingham were Millwall's fans and players, and it was the home club the FA chose to punish. Birmingham's comments are now the subject of an inquiry that could lead to further punishment for the club, the FA said yesterday.

Two police injured, one police horse treated for cuts. True, the troublemakers numbered only 200 people out of a crowd of 9,271. It was hardly a riot, yet the press used to give such reservations short shrift when this sort of "skirmish" was reported in Oslo/Malmö, Rotterdam — or England 10 years ago. Is no one interested in these incidents any more?

Chapman insists the vast majority of Millwall fans have no interest in violence and are desperate to shed the image bestowed them by the Seventies. Money has helped shift the problem too. "The top clubs have been able to message it away," said John Williams of the Sir Norman Chester Centre for Football Research. "Because of the increased demand for entry the people who want trouble can't get in any more. But there is a real thing going on in the English League, where clubs have been left behind by recent changes and their type of supporters have not changed so much."

Some Newcastle fans were shocked when visiting Stoke supporters went on a wrecking spree, overturning cars. It was as if they had not realised things had changed and no one did this any more. But it does still happen. Anyone in London's Camden Town on the Saturday night before this year's Coca-Cola Cup final will testify to that.

They are using new technology now," said Chapman. "Like mobile phones. Their look-outs can see where police are moving and create diversions on occasions to draw police resources away." Chelsea hooligans posted spotters with cell-phones at half-a-dozen tube stations the last time they clashed with Millwall, with 300 thugs waiting in a pub for the signal that their Millwall counterparts were disembarking.



Extra time Edited by Jeremy Alexander The Boat Race re-run tomorrow

SOME reckon one Boat Race is a ballyhoo too far. Tomorrow there is another, Oxford v Cambridge again, already, the same personnel. The crews reappear in Gainesville, Georgia, where the Olympic regatta will be held in July. They do battle with each other, plus Harvard and Yale, over 2,000 still-water metres of Lake Lanier. It is the first time all four protagonists in the world's most famous boat races have met.

The idea belongs to Dick Fishlock, a Blue whose Oxford crew represented Britain in the Rome Olympics. Having sold it — the US are holding their Olympic trials this weekend and it gives an extra chance to test the facilities — he found himself with a professional challenge. His business is raising sponsorship. He managed \$115,000 out of the \$150,000 required for an event embracing the four universities' women's, men's lightweight and masters' crews, too. Oxford include two Harvard men (Hammond and the cox Kristol) and Mann from Yale while Cambridge have one from Harvard (Ayer). The American crew seldom have Oxbridge men aboard as only undergraduates may row in their race — a lesson there.

Sixth column

EVEN Curtis Strange, who probably lost the 1988 Masters by failing to blast out of the creek in front of the 18th green when leading by two strokes on the last round, welcomes its return to a trickle. Six years ago damming raised the water level to engulf balls without trace. Now by popular demand, it is possible again to play out. "I think it's exciting if a guy takes off his shoes, puts on the raincoat and goes down after it," Strange said.

It took an iron bar to crack a loophole in the rules governing US Olympic competitors. It hit the skater Nancy Kerrigan across the knee but Tonya Harding still competed in the Lillehammer Winter Games. This weekend the US Olympic Committee considers a stricter code of conduct. Competitors, once selected for Atlanta, will be required to sign a code which forbids "activities which may result in civil or criminal charges". The code also circumscribes those too big for their basketball boots. In Barcelona Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson crossed out portions of the old code that obliged them to wear uniforms bearing trademarks competing with some of their biggest personal sponsors. The new code must be signed in its unaltered form. Athletes will pledge to "wear designated USOC apparel at official functions such as ceremonies and press conferences". That will hardly prevent those who think themselves bigger than the Olympics from again covering a club in Forest. Teams come under USOC jurisdiction on selection. In most sports that is between May 22 and June 5. The span for British competitors is July 18 to August 4. They will sign a letter of agreement, currently in draft by the British Olympic Association. It does not mention bars.

FA date set for Asprilla

NEWCASTLE'S \$7.5 million Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla and the Manchester City captain Keith Curle will appear before the Football Association on April 30 to explain their clash at Maine Road on February 24.

The pair were involved in a running battle during the Premiership match and soon after half-time Asprilla, angered when he was hauled back as he tried to burst through, lashed out with his elbow and caught Curle in the face. The referee Martin Bodenham took no action.

Kevin Keegan and City's Alan Ball claimed they had not had a clear view of either incident but TV footage was graphic and the FA launched an inquiry. Asprilla was later charged with two counts of misconduct and Curle with one.

Bonetti agrees to try again with Grimsby

GRIMSBY'S Italian striker Ivano Bonetti is to stay at Blundell Park after a meeting with the club yesterday.

Leeds clear-out

LEEDS UNITED will herald the end of the Leslie Silver era with a summer clear-out. The retirement of the chairman after 14 years surprised many outsiders but inside Elland Road they had been planning for the day for some time.

Bill Fotherby, the new caretaker chairman, said on Clubcall that there is "no sugar-daddy waiting in the wings to handroll a host of big-money signings. But we have a good sound base here with the young players and now we need some fresh and experienced players."

Sailing

Ainslie on right wavelength

BEN AINSLIE of Great Britain opened his account in the BP Laser world championship at Simonstown, South Africa, by winning his first race in very difficult conditions, writes Bob Fisher.

Athletics

Lynch back in action after drug-test precaution over flu medicine

NINENNA LYNCH, Liz McColgan's main rival in the BUPA International Road Race in Portsmouth tomorrow, will be making her return to competition after withdrawing from last month's World Cross Country Championships to avoid failing a drugs test.

Rugby League

Skerrett set for Warrington

PAUL FITZPATRICK each received two-match suspensions for a high tackle in last Friday's match at Oldham. Hal-Jas was cited by the RFL after an incident in the same game in which Oldham's winger Rob Myler suffered a broken nose.

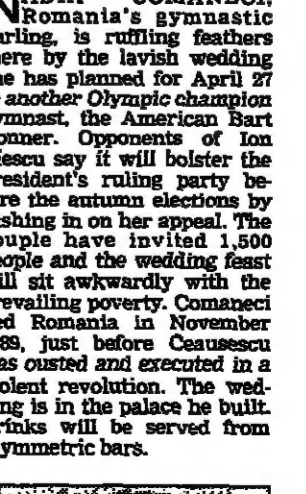
EURO 96 FOOTLINE
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FOOTBALL COMES HOME

NO ONE seems sure why

baseball is banned in Webster, Florida, but the City Commission has suddenly realised that times have moved on. It met last night with a view to repealing a law that was made on July 31, 1986. It is one of over 30 ordinances identified as being out of date. Street peddling of fish may also be admitted.

NADIA COMANECHI

Romania's gymnastic darling, is ruffling feathers there by the lavish wedding she has planned for April 27 to another Olympic champion gymnast, the American Bart Conner. Opponents of Ion Iliescu say it will bolster the president's ruling party before the autumn elections by cashing in on her appeal. The couple have invited 1,500 people and the wedding feast will sit awkwardly with the prevailing poverty. Communist-led Romania in November 1989, just before Ceausescu was ousted and executed in a violent revolution. The wedding is in the palace he built. Drinks will be served from asymmetric bars.



Comaneci... overdoing it

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Witnesses clash over Tyson claim, page 13

The true face of soccer violence, page 15

South Africa's rugby coach resigns, page 14

Warrington eye Kelvin Skerrett, page 15

Sports Guardian

THE MASTERS: SPANISH VETERAN BACK ON COURSE AT AUGUSTA



Springing the trap... Seve Ballesteros, who was fitted for the green jacket in 1980 and 1983, finds the answer to the riddle of the sand as he plays out of a bunker on the 1st hole. After his recent poor run, Ballesteros would have been relieved to open with a one-over-par round of 73 which gives him a chance of beating the cut. Reports, page 22 PHOTOGRAPH: STEPHEN MUNDAY

Even WG was a bodger with a pencil



Paul Weaver

AT THIS moment Raymond Iltingworth, who is showing all the signs of a healthy paranoia, is probably holed up in his Yorkshire bunker, giggling maniacally as he takes a Gunn & Moore to the flag of Ian Botham and David Graveney. He should have a peek at history.

The game represents the eternal search for an elusive balance and the match will be played on a surface which has within it all the treachery of a used-car salesman.

The next time you see two captains pawing the pitch, half-close your eyes and you will see a couple of archaeologists trying to decipher snatched hieroglyphics on an ancient Egyptian tomb.

England's selectors, however, clearly top the bloopers' league. The most glaring sin in Sygne's book is inconsistency. With the England selectors every evening, it seems, is a night of the long pencils. We cannot even decide who should lead the side.

Between 1889 and 1909 England had six captains compared with Australia's two; in the decade 1930-39 the figures were six-three; from 1960-70 eight-three; and from 1980-88, when Australia contented themselves with Greg Chappell, Kim Hughes and Allan Border, and West Indies made do with Clive Lloyd and Viv Richards, England had nine captains.

PERHAPS the successful C B Fry had the best idea in 1912 when he said: "Foster, Shuter and I met in May, chose a definite team with definite substitutions, and never met again. This did not provide much fodder for the scribes, Fabians and dramatists but it worked."

At least Fry recognised his players, which was more than Peter May could manage. Once, attempting to ensure he did not make yet another gaffe, he looked up Chris Broad's name in *Playfair*, the cricket-watcher's hip-flask.

Broad's first name is actually Brian. "Good luck tomorrow, Brian," chirped the chairman.

May comes near the bottom of the book's league table of selectors, below Walter Robins, Alec Bedser and Bob Wyatt. "Wyatt's errors" would have been the headline if the equivalent of the Sun newspaper had been around in those days.

The most impressive records were those of Gubby Allen and Wilf Woollmer, who both served from 1956-61, when England had an unusually high number of outstanding players, proving it does not matter too much who does the job provided he has the materials to work with.

My own choice would be Mr Mark English. Who? Mr English won £4.2 million in last week's lottery and clearly possesses all the skills for the job.

Rugby clubs quit league

Robert Armstrong on the shock decision by 24 leading lights to boycott RFU competitions in the fight to control the English game

ENGLISH rugby stood on the brink of all-out war last night as Twickenham considered a shock decision by the leading clubs to pull out of next season's league and cup competitions.

The boycott by the top 24 clubs will take effect from late August unless the clubs and the Rugby Football Union can resolve their bitter power struggle over television income and control of the game's domestic, Anglo-Welsh and European competitions.

The clubs are also seeking the removal of Cliff Brittle as head of the RFU negotiating team which has held a series of acrimonious talks with their representatives in recent weeks. They want the RFU

president Bill Bishop to step in and take over Brittle's duties. The RFU secretary Tony Hallett said: "I am delighted they have stopped short of a breakaway." Yet the clubs' withdrawal from cup and league constitutes a break-away in all but name.

Last night Brittle held the door ajar for further negotiations. He said: "In order to implement the game's overwhelming vote for a seamless open game, the RFU must maintain overall control in the interests of all its members."

"In particular, the RFU holds the national representative sides as being paramount, but underpinned by the strongest club structure. Subject to the above stipulations, the other differences between the RFU and the top

clubs are negotiable around the table as soon as possible." Brittle's comments followed a detailed and angry statement issued by Donald Kerr, chairman of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc), in which the clubs took Brittle to task for alleged lack of good faith. "We deplore the attempt by the chairman of the executive committee to go behind the backs of the clubs' elected representatives to the clubs themselves," it said.

"He [Brittle] has also selectively gone public on discussions at private meetings. Having done this... in clear violation of the gentlemen's agreement we had strictly adhered to, it is no wonder he has now lost the confidence and trust of the clubs."

Others believe that Brittle, who was elected in January with a landslide majority, is simply being tested out by the money men who have come increasingly to dominate club rugby at all levels.

Kerr later added: "It is becoming increasingly difficult to solve this with Cliff Brittle and one way forward would be if he stepped down or were removed from office."

Peter Wheeler, the Leicester chief executive who helped to set up Epruc, denied that the clubs were trying to wrest control of the game away from Twickenham. "We had nothing to lose," he said. "We are not rebel clubs. We are not looking to hijack anything. The RFU is an amateur organisation for amateur clubs but we are professional clubs and our problems are different. The RFU should give us a measure of control."

Nevertheless, some RFU members regard the attempt to oust Brittle, a tough negotiator with a clear mandate, as the thin end of the wedge: if Brittle is sacrificed, they argue, he will be replaced by someone more pliable.

One immediate consequence of the boycott would be that no League One clubs would be relegated this season, a dramatic reversal of Twickenham's decision this week that two should go down. Epruc wants League One increased from 10 to 12 clubs.

Epruc has been eager to claim that it fully represents the 24 clubs in membership, yet some do have doubts about the wisdom of a full-scale confrontation with Twickenham.

Northern clubs such as Orrell, Sale and Wakefield are reluctant to rush to the barricades while the London Exiles, Scottish and Irish, would prefer a low-key compromise. Richmond also support the RFU.

"We intend to make full financial investment in the future of English club rugby and we alone can do it," said the Epruc statement. "The RFU's policy is of necessity driven by the need urgently to raise revenue for themselves, given their overall financial situation."

This refers to a £34 million bank loan taken out to rebuild Twickenham which costs about £3 million a year to service.

It is hard to see how Twickenham can accede to the clubs' demand to negotiate their own TV contracts and still raise the money necessary to pay off the loan and develop the game.

Epruc said: "Even at this late hour we believe that a compromise must be reached with the RFU - otherwise there will be a split, for which the RFU will be held responsible."

Brittle... under attack

McCarthy 10-year Cup ticket ban

Russell Thomas

MICK MCCARTHY, the Republic of Ireland manager, has called a press conference for this morning in Dublin to explain how two 1995 FA Cup final tickets issued to him found their way on to the black market.

McCarthy, who took over from Jack Charlton only two months ago, is anxious to give his version of events after being banned yesterday from receiving FA Cup final tickets for 10 years.

The two £60 tickets issued to McCarthy, then manager of Millwall, for the final between Everton and Manchester United ended up with two Norwegian supporters who paid £350 each for their seats.

McCarthy, 37, a former Republic captain, is the biggest-name victim of investigations into the black mar-

ket trade at the 1995 final. Last week the FA black-listed 36 individuals and organisations.

The ban is not only an embarrassment to McCarthy but also to the Football Association of Ireland, already troubled by alleged ticket irregularities at the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

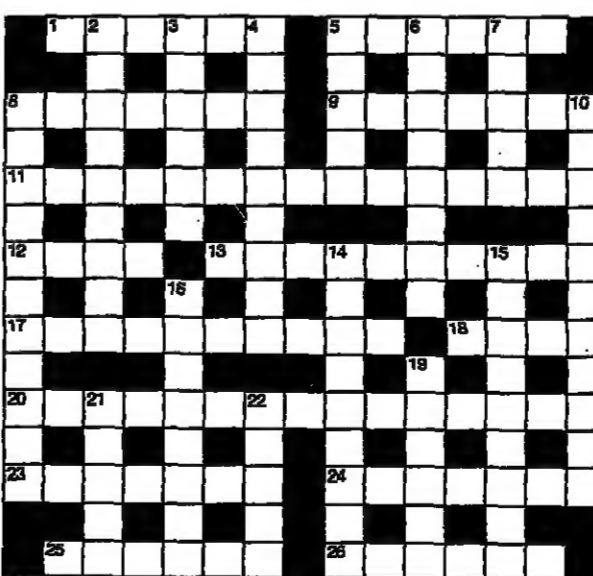
The FA spokesman Steve Double said: "Mick McCarthy told us that he had passed on the tickets to two associates at face value and that he had made no monetary gain from the transaction, which we accept."

"But in any event he was in breach of the conditions he signed when he received the tickets. They state that tickets should not be passed on, with or without payment, unless you have the prior written consent of your county FA, club or the organisation which made the original allocation."

Crawley is chiefly known for two things: Gatwick and its crematorium. No one likes to linger too long at either. Walking round you had the overwhelming sense of 50,000 people going silently out of their minds.

Guardian Crossword No 20,625

Set by Mercury



Across

- 1, 5 ac. Picked rush job one wants to do? (8,6)
- 8 Theatre worker certainly on around midnight (7)
- 9 I'd taken a member a beer, transfixed (7)
- 11 One may get to stroll in these if one's patient (8,7)
- 12 The doctor's rejected it, miss (4)
- 13 Express disapproval of first person in and reduce in price (10)
- 17 Monkey with tail bites youth leader after brutal behaviour (10)
- 18 Advantage of turning outside broadcast on (4)
- 20 Change is needed in this place of entertainment (9,6)
- 23 Dislikes dead tsetse flies (7)
- 24 Quietly sit back in club

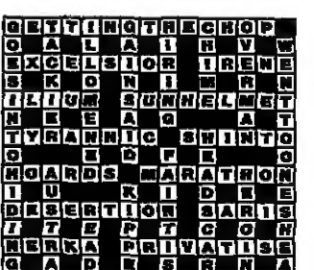
provided by church member (7)

25 Game you need a spemmer for? (6)

26 Mission operated in East Street (5)

Down

- 2 Has way onto vessel in difficulties (9)
- 3 Nurse in charge admits said sea is picturesque (5)
- 4 Matchless iron plane is broken (8)
- 5 Stick with Capone without shouting (5)
- 6 Blame the fish salesman for going ahead (8)
- 7 Girl embracing students is not five, even! (5)
- 8 They provided educational establishment for tutor to get on with (6,5)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,624

10 Nice MD's rent adjustment shows keen judgment (11)

14 Can be turned from a duty list to any list (5)

15 Love helping after a party (9)

16 Theologian is to relax inside, being unwell (8)

19 Appropriate support given by mounted soldiers (6)

21 A topless golf club, say! (5)

22 Found in custard when sweet pudding's to follow (5)

Solution tomorrow

23 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 338 288. Calls cost 30p per min, cheap rates, 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied by ATS

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